HOUSTON
VOICE
The Voice of Houston's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgendered Community

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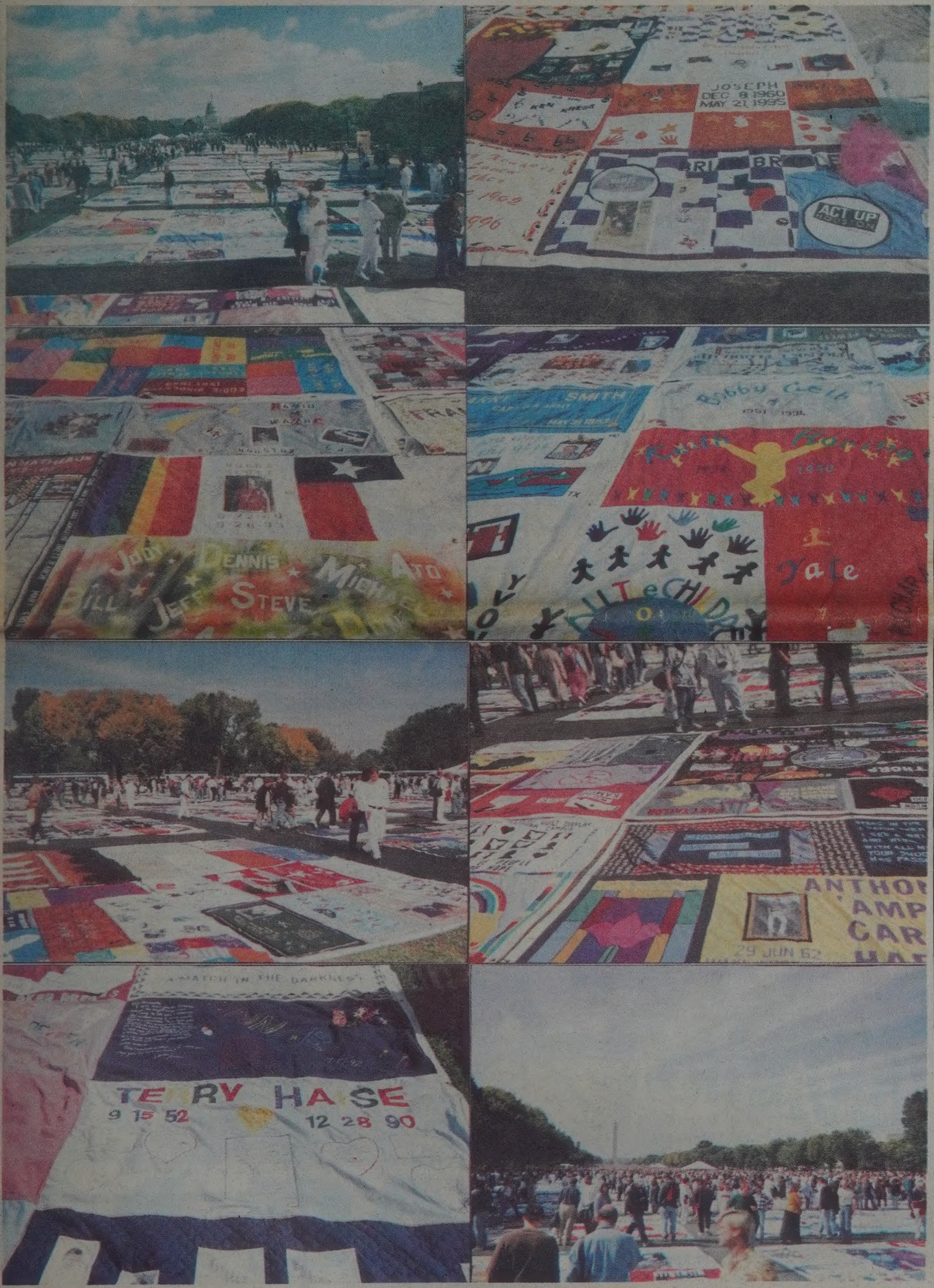
Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian
Chamber of Commerce

OCTOBER 18, 1996 ▪ ISSUE 834



The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt

A picture speaks more than a thousand words.

Next week we will run more pictures and information about The Quilt Display in Washington, DC.

HOUSTON VOICE ONLINE!

The USAGayNet website can be viewed at http://www.usagaynet.com. To reach The Houston Voice, access the site and click on the News and Views button.

Clinton Ad Raises Community Ire

Response to Similar Dole Ad

by Curt Morrison

Gay groups across the country are upset over an advertisement for the Clinton/Gore campaign that is currently running on Christian radio stations. At issue is the fact that the ads are boasting the presidents decision to sign the anti-gay Defense Of Marriage Act (DOMA).

"This ad is a mistake and a serious political miscalculation," said Elizabeth Birch, Executive Director of the Human Rights Campaign. "It was designed to pander to a segment of the electorate that isn't going to support the president under any circumstances. It completely contradicts the president's past statements."

The HRC indicates that the ad was calculated as a response to a recent campaign advertisement from the Dole/Kemp ticket titled "Moral Crisis" which has been running on the same radio stations. In the Dole ad, his opposition to Gays in the Military is promoted as a mean of protecting family values. Clinton's ad sought to counter the Dole ad by promoting Clinton's work to protect religious freedom. "Singing the unconstitutional DOMA is nothing to be proud of, and Bill Clinton know this," Birch said.

"Clinton has decided that the gay vote is marginal and that his gay supporters will remain loyal no matter what he does," opined Rich Tafel, Executive Director of Log Cabin Republicans. "This is dangerous political position for any group to be in. After promising the gay

(Continued on page 4)

Halloween Magic

I listen.
I hear you.
I care.

When you need healthy solutions for:

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- Dysfunctional family/incest
- AIDS related concerns
- Fear of intimacy/shame
- Compulsive unsafe sexual behavior
- Making & maintaining couples relationships

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Shampoo, Haircut and Blowdry
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Expires 11/15/96
HV Good at Montrose & Med Center locations only.

Fantastic Sams
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Perm or Color Service
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Opening Your Heart

An Exploration of Healing

The First Unitarian Universalist Church of Houston invites you to attend a one day workshop Oct. 26, 1996, with Stephen and Ondrea Levine, on Opening Your Heart—An Exploration of Healing Into Life and Death. The Levines are world-famous workshop leaders, authors, counselors, and meditation teachers, who have worked for many years with people who are terminally ill or recovering from loss or abuse. Workshop participants will have the opportunity to explore conscious living and dying, grieving, compassion, and healing, using guided meditations, lecture, discussion and group sharing. Seating is limited, so call now to register at 713-729-6707. Scholarships are available for the seriously ill.

The Levines have served as consultants to many hospices, hospitals, and meditation groups, and their work has greatly influenced how the terminally ill are cared for by doctors, nurses, counselors, hospice workers, and other caregivers. Stephen and Ondrea have devoted more than 18 years to exploring the mind/body relationship, especially as it relates to dying and grieving and our power to effect healing. They have worked with people recovering from loss and abuse, those who have been given a terminal diagnosis, those with AIDS and cancer, and friends, family members, nurses, counselors, doctors, hospice workers, and other caregivers.

The Levine Workshop will be on Saturday, Oct. 26, 1996, from 10am to 5pm at Emerson Unitarian Church in Houston, Texas. The workshop is a fundraiser for the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Houston.

Volunteer of the Week

Our community is blessed with generous indiviuals who contribute hundreds of volunteer hours for charities and in organizations. Is there someone active in your group who deserves special recognition? Nominate them for "Volunteer of the Week" in The Houston Voice. Submit nominations by sending a short bio (not more than 200 words), a few words on why that person is being nominated and provide a picture of them. Send to 811 Westheimer #105, Houston, TX 77006. Check the Voice every week to see who is honored as The Volunteer of the Week.

Celebration!

Celebration! is a new, special feature of the Houston Voice. Someone you love is having a birthday? Announce your engagement or holy union/Commitment Ceremony or your anniversary. How about that big job promotion or getting your Masters? Announce it to the world via the Houston Voice.

You must submit the material typed written, up to 100 words. You may submit a photo to be included (you must make arrangements if you want the photo returned.

Special rates on Display layout of special Celebration! announcements. Call for details, 529-8490.

Obituary Policy

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you are submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on a label and stick on the back (writing directly on the back can damage the photo). Include a SASE for the photo's return and write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap or arrange for pickup at the Houston Voice office. All obituaries must be submitted by Tuesday 12 Noon to be included in Friday's paper and must include a contact name and phone number (not for publication).

Gr.Am.Puz. Solution

c.1996 GULF FEATURES, Puzzle TX201
initialed names: Theodore Roosevelt, Ernest Hemingway, Oscar Wilde, William Shakespeare

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            V E S T A
            I C H O R
            Z ▩ R N A
            ▩ L I E F
            C O M R A D E
            R A P ▩ T R ▩ P A ▩ L U C I D
            A M ▩ E ▩ E E L ▩ K A P O K ▩
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HOUSTON VOICE
The Voice of Houston's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgendered Community

ISSUE 834
October 18, 1996
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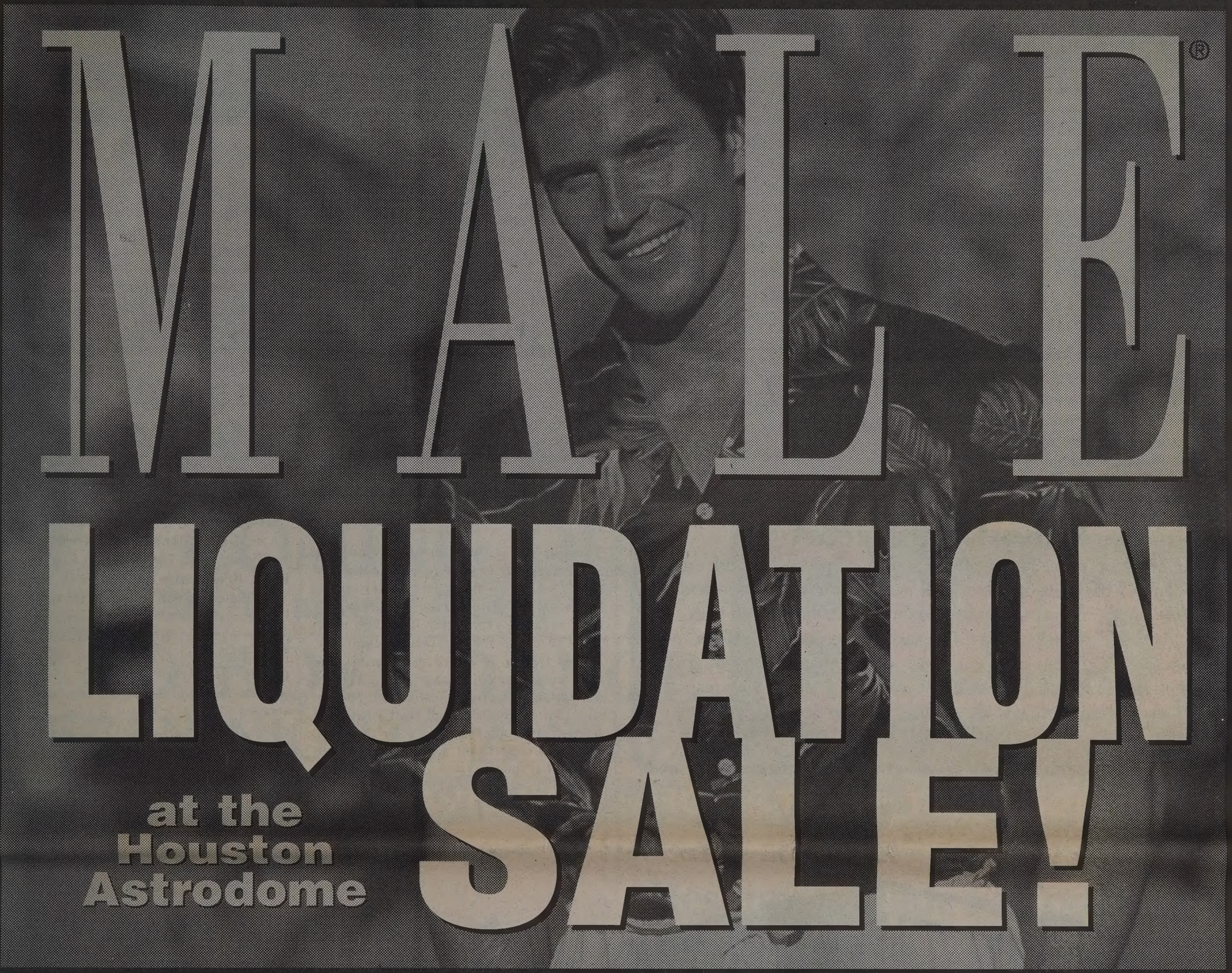

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4 DAYS ONLY!

October 24th-27th

Thursday & Friday
10:00 AM–9:00 PM
Saturday & Sunday
10:00 AM–7:00 PM

Houston Astro Arena
8400 Kirby Dr., Houston, TX 77054
For more info call 1-800-444-1234
Presented by ADZ, Inc.
$1.00 admission

Clinton continued...

(Continued from page 1)

community so much, how could gay Democrat leaders have allowed this to happen?"

In an article in this Wednesday's Washington Times, it was reported that the Clinton/Gore campaign "shrugged off" angry calls to shelve the radio ad. The article cited reports from gay and lesbian groups that the campaign might delete the portion of the ad which boasts his support of DOMA, but quotes campaign spokesperson Joe Lockharts as saying there are no plans to alter the radio ads despite the protests.

Campaign ad text

Protecting religious freedom. It's the foundation of our nation.

When the Justice Department went after a church to gather the parishioners tithing money, the government was stopped cold because President Clinton overturned the government's policy and protected us.

It's not the only time he's defended our values.

Don't be misled by Bob Dole's attack ads.

President Clinton wants a complete ban on late-term abortions except when the mother's life is in danger or faces severe health risks, such as the inability to have another child.

The President signed the Defense of Marriage Act, supports curfews and school uniforms to teach our children discipline.

The President enacted the V-Chip to block out violent TV programs. His crime bill expanded the death penalty for drug kingpins.

Bob Dole opposed him and is resorting to untrue negative attacks.

President Clinton has fought for our values and America is better for it.

Paid for by Clinton/Gore '96.

Volunteers Needed

The Houston Voice has need of a number of people to work on a voluntary basis. Positions include artists, cartoonists, reporters, reviewers, proofreaders (needed on Wednesdays), help with distribution, and various other tasks as needed. We offer a progressive "Out" environment, some job training and a great group of folks to hang out with, besides it will look good on your resume some day to have this work experience. Interested? Contact the Editor, Deborah Bell at 529-8490.

Sleepers Keeps You Awake

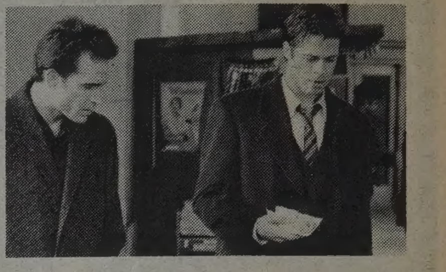
Film Depicts True Tale of An American Tragedy

By JON ANTHONY

Sleepers boasts an all star cast in a drama that at times is both compelling and very disturbing. The movie opens with four young boys growing up on the streets in the late 1960s. They resided in a community in New York City known as "Hell's Kitchen" which was described as a place of innocence, yet it was ruled by corruption. Directed by Barry Levinson, this film grips you until it's climatic ending.

Based on the best-selling book by Lorenzo Carcaterra, it is a provocative story that delves into a world of violence and abuse perpetrated upon children. The lives of these four young men are forever changed when they decide to scam a hot dog vendor and end up seriously injuring a man in the process. Sentenced to a juvenile delinquent boys home, their experiences mar them for life. They are sexually and physically abused by four guards at the institution in what can only be described as scenes that will haunt you due to their brutally. The knowledge that this film portrays real people's lives may make its horror impact you more powerfully.

The film has stirred controversy prior to its opening due to the content and the matter of a prevaricating priest who assists the boys now grown into men in getting their revenge years later (although nothing can erase their painful memories). Robert DeNiro is superb as the priest who befriends these young men through adulthood. Despite the crime and corruption that filtered through Hell's Kitchen, nothing prepared these boys for the physical and emotional inferno that they endured at the Wilkinson Home for Boys. Tortured, abused and raped under the leadership of a sadistic guard named Sean Nokes (Kevin Bacon), the boys were irreparably damaged emotionally. The subject matter is nefarious and it leaves an indelible impression upon you. This film is not for the faint hearted. It is riveting beyond compression and resonates in your psyche for hours afterwards.



Jason Patric and Brad Pitt are two of the stars in Sleepers.

The film begins at a dilatory pace in order to build character development. When two of the young men, now grownup, run into Nokes in a restaurant, they get revenge by shooting him down in view of the other patrons. What ensues is a daring plan that would once and for all deliver the justice that the four men so desperately sought for more than a decade and were denied. The execution of the plan is gripping and suspenseful.

This ***** film is one of the years best. Kevin Bacon, Robert De Niro, Dustin Hoffman, Jason Patrick, Brad Pitt, Bruno Kirby, Brad Renfro and Minnie Driver star. With the exception of Brad Pitt, this stellar cast gave some of their greatest career performances. Hoffman plays a alcoholic burnt out attorney with verve and perfection. Jason Patric is astonishing. De Niro and Bacon are excellent. Pitt seemed as though he was reading a script except in the final scene of the film where he appeared genuine. This is a fascinating film and it will probably garner Oscar nominations galore. It is adult drama that is honestly depicted and is not for the faint hearted.

DISCO DE LOS MUERTOS
Disco of the Dead

Costume Contest!

$500 in prizes!

OUTRAGE

The Halloween Party

Saturday, October 26
8:00 pm until midnight
Rich's - 2401 San Jacinto

Benefiting
PWA Coalition - Houston &
Pet Patrol

$20 Advance, $25 at door
Free Well Drinks

Advance tickets available at
Basic Brothers, Inklings, Lobo &
PWA Coalition Office
- 3400 Montrose, #106
(cash & check only)
www.outrage.org/~outrage

MALE STRIP
SUNDAY with Dyan Michaels
WEDNESDAY with Regina Dane
The Clothes Drop at 11pm.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22
The Imperial Court Reign XIII
CANDIDATES RECEPTION
and COCKTAIL BUFFET at 7pm
I'M COMING OUT
SHOW at 8pm SHARP

BAD BOYS DANCE
SEVEN NIGHTS A WEEK

HALLOWEEN HEADQUARTERS
SATURDAY, OCT. 26
MIDNIGHT COSTUME CONTEST
$200 in Cash and Prizes

SUNDAY, OCT. 27
CHILLS and THRILLS
A Halloween Nightmare
Showtime at 9pm
COSTUME CONTEST
at 10:30 pm • Cash Prizes
GREMLINS & GOBLINS
MALE STRIP CONTEST
with Black Velvett at 11pm

THURSDAY, OCT. 31
COSTUME CONTEST
at 11 pm with
$150 in Cash and Prizes

Gentry
HOUSTON
NO COVER, EVER

2303 RICHMOND AVENUE ▫ HOUSTON, TX ▫ 520-1861

Fais Do Do Fundraiser

A lot of good it is to be royalty, when you get hit in the face with pies

Trudy Denny and Marion Coleman enjoyed the festivities

A Krewe Cut Above

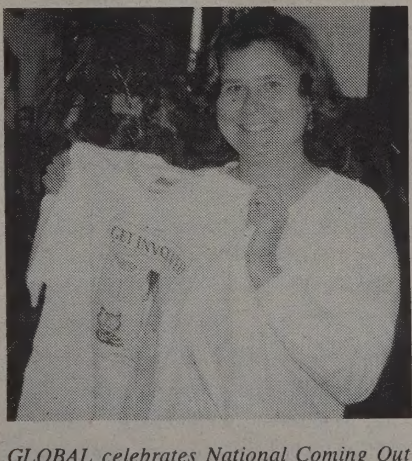
By DAVID RICHARDSON

On 6 October, 1996 the Krewe of Olympus sponsored a Fais Do Do at the Lovett Inn. Many of the communities elite were in attendance and strolled about the grounds, enjoying the sounds of Zydeco and Jazz music while playing festive carnival games. There was also an abundance of delicious Cajun food available for consumption.

Krewe member Bruce Reeves explained that the Krewe moved from New Orleans to Houston in 1991 and their goal is to try and instill a Mardi Gras feeling in the community year round. They are also responsible for a huge invitation only ball inn February with fantastical costumes and a spectacular show. Past ball themes have included silver, Lamps, and Yard Sale. Each year a charitable organization benefits from the Krewe's generosity. This year's designated beneficiaries are Omega House and Stevens House.

KOO Board Members and Royalty

Resource Guide to Coming Out



GLOBAL celebrates National Coming Out Day with HRC. Mary won a shirt as a door prize

Love is what it's all about—GLOBAL President Robin Maguire and "special friend"!

WASHINGTON—In its ongoing campaign to promote the values of openness and honesty about being Gay or Lesbian, HRC's National Coming Out Project announced the publication of its *Resource Guide to Coming Out* . Timed to coincide with National Coming Out Day on Oct. 11, HRC is making the booklet available to lesbian and gay bookstores, community groups, student organizations and individuals.

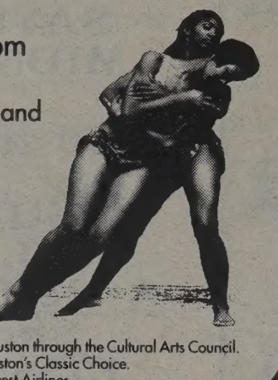
"Coming out can be such a challenge for lesbian, gay and bisexual Americans, so HRC is providing people with basic information to show them where they can turn as they strive to accept themselves," according to HRC Executive Director Elizabeth Birch. "Polls show that Americans who know gay people are much more supportive of ending discrimination—so coming out is important both personally and politically."

HRC's booklet provides information to help people come out to themselves and others and includes a listing of organizations and books they can refer to for further assistance. In addition to the *Guide* , HRC's National Coming Out Project sponsored a "Come Out Voting" rally in Washington on Oct. 11. Hosted by HRC's National Coming Out Day representative, Chastity Bono and featuring Chastity's Mother, Cher, who talked about her own difficulty coming to terms with her daughter's sexuality. She confessed that she had been very "uncherlike" but has since grown to be more accepting.

The rally was just one of hundreds of events around the country celebrating National Coming Out Day, created in 1988 to recognize the importance of coming out and to honor the first anniversary of the 1987 March on Washington for Gay and Lesbian Equal Rights. HRC's National Coming Out Project is an ongoing campaign to help end discrimination by encouraging and assisting gay people to be open and honest about their lives.

Copies of the HRC's *Resource Guide to Coming Out* can be obtained by calling HRC's National Coming Out Project at (800)866-6263 or sending an e-mail to ncop@hrccusa.org. The *Guide* can also be accessed through HRC's Website at: http://www.hrccusa.org/whowhat/whatwedo/ncop/resource.

In Houston, The Gay Lesbian Bisexual Alliance at the University of Houston (GLOBAL) student organization joined with HRC at Toopees Coffees for an evening of music and fun.



Houston Dance Coalition presents

DANCE HOUSTON !

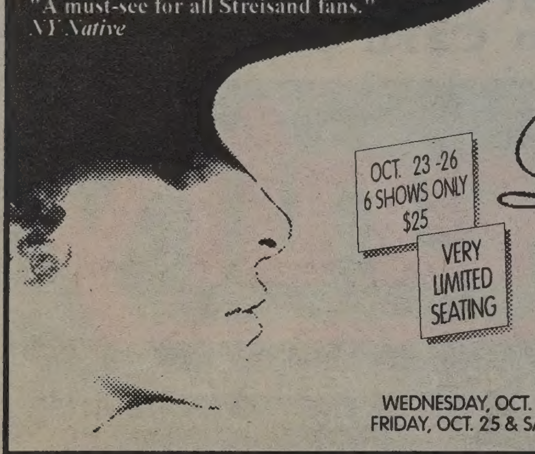
Saturday, October 19 - 8:00 pm

The Best of Houston's Choreographers and Dancers

Cullen Performance Hall
University of Houston
4800 Calhoun, Entrance #1

Tickets: 227-ARTS

This project made possible in part by a grant from the City of Houston through the Cultural Arts Council.
Dance Houston listens to KUHF88.7FM - Houston's Classic Choice.
Air transportation courtesy of Southwest Airlines.



THEATER LaB HOUSTON PRESENTS

DIRECT FROM THE SOLD-OUT NEW YORK CABARET RUN

"Can sound so much like Streisand as to give one the creeps!" *Theater Week*

"A must-see for all Streisand fans." *NY Native*

A HOUSTON EXCLUSIVE!

SIMPLY *Barbra*

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6 SHOWS ONLY
$25

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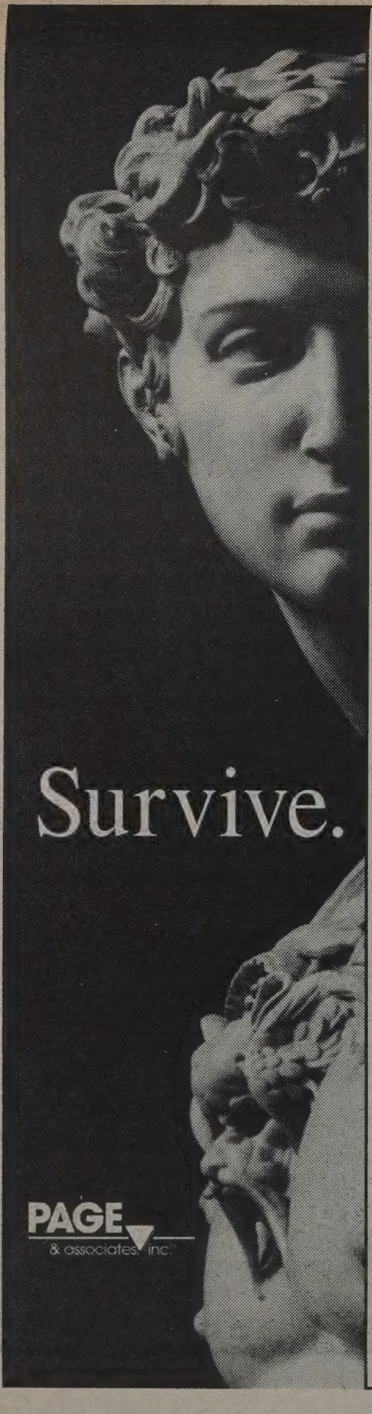
CONCEIVED BY & STARRING
Steven Brinberg

MUSICAL DIRECTOR
Steven Jones

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 23 & THURSDAY, OCT. 24 @ 8:00 P.M.
FRIDAY, OCT. 25 & SATURDAY, OCT. 26 @ 8:30 & 10:30 P.M.!

CHARGE BY PHONE 227-ARTS



Now, more than ever, surviving with AIDS requires sound choices and aggressive financial planning. You'll be happy to know that when it comes to choices, thousands of people have trusted us to help them make the right ones. By offering one of the best creative financial alternatives available, we help you help yourself…

When you choose us to sell a life insurance policy, you'll be amazed at how different we truly are. Our company tries to work with everyone, even if you're healthy. And, you'll be relieved to know that unlike some of our competition, we don't call to bother you after the sale.

With our program, you'll also get something no other viatical company can give you: a ***free*** membership in **A Better Benefit for Life™**–a comprehensive medical advisory network that offers assistance in obtaining valuable information and discounts on medical services.

We want you to make the right choice. **Survival.**

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http://www.thelifeline.com

"Indeed, altruism rather than profit has been the catalyst for at least one company, Page & Associates, Inc."
Liz Harmon–San Diego Business Journal, April, 1994

"The final months or years of a person's life are lived with the dignity of not going broke…"
Phil Donahue–The Donahue Show, December, 1992

"…they're just as likely to give a terminally ill person a second lease on life."
William Hoffman–Small Business News, April, 1994

Family Values

by Esperanza Lavender Jazz Paz

That Was Then

I used to be known as a Professional Homosexual. Every day was Coming Out Day for me. My paid work was as a proud AIDS Specialty Nurse at Park Plaza and then at Twelve Oaks Hospitals. I made Names Project memorial quilt panels, wrote for various community periodicals, and volunteered in Pride Week activities. My family was the Lone Star Symphonic Band and in an effort to help finance the trips and activities we so ambitiously pursued, I have washed many a car and sold many a ticket to our famous Barbecue Concerts. I walked in "From All Walks of Life" and traveled to Austin to donate blood (in the Blood Sisters program) for hospitalized PWA's.

That was then. As I looked over my calendar of this year and last, I am amazed at how little connection I have anymore to the lesbian and gay community. I march in the parade and attend concerts and festivals but more as a participant than an insider. As my life has changed so drastically and I miss the involvement, the scoops, the friends.

I used to have friends. Lesbian women, who I used to talk with every day. Women who became grandmothers at about the same time I did, women who lost/changed jobs, lent each other money, advice and support.

I seldom hear from these friends anymore unless there is an unusual event: family crisis, or a party to be invited to. They don't get many calls from me, either. I have a demanding job, an understanding wife and a home to help organize. When we do get together, our common complaint is "There's just not enough time!"

In a rare moment of relaxation, I spied a newspaper want-ad soliciting Lesbians to join a "Just For Fun" friends group. The notice suggested that we all need friends and let's get together and make some. Some of the activities suggested were: meeting for supper, going to the movies, and discussion groups. The initial meeting was hopeful. Every woman in attendance complained that they were too busy in their lives to meet people and make friends. Our first outing was agreed upon and everyone looked forward to getting together again. Several women offered to bring others who wanted to make new friends, too.

The group met at the appointed evening to share a meal and each introduced themselves and we all visited. The chemistry was sparkling. We all liked each other and eagerly made plans for the next occasion. Several people called each other during the following days to get better acquainted.

The agreed next agreed upon happening was looser and less formal. People mingled and chatted. And we had a slightly different mix than previously, but the women who sent regrets did so sincerely, and the new ones were welcomed and made to feel included.

"This is great!" Jan and I agreed. "We are meeting women we like, and have things in common with. I hope we can go to most of the events they plan."

The third meeting was last Friday night. It was planned ten days in advance and everyone had been looking forward to being able to attend. Thursday evening the organizer of the group called us to say it was canceled. We were disappointed, but secretly relieved. Like us, everyone was just too busy. No one could spare the time.

Jazz wrote this article while she was on call for her other job, baking her son's 21st birthday cake, making dinner reservations, wrapping his present, creating a grocery list, feeding the dog and preparing for yet another family funeral out of town.

Torie Osborn tells us about 'Coming Home' to America

Booksigning at Crossroads

By **JON ANTHONY**

Torie Osborn will be reading from her new book *Coming Home to America: A Roadmap to Gay & Lesbian Empowerment* (St. Martins Press, $21.95) this week at Crossroads Market & Bookstore. Recently I spoke with Osborn about the book and her role as a community activist.

Osborn has been a political activist for more than three decades. She is considered to be a national leader of the gay and lesbian movement and holds an MBA from UCLA. She is the former Executive Director for both the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Currently residing in Washington, DC, Osborn is a management consultant who moonlights as a lecturer, writer and trainer.

Osborn is on a 26 city book tour which brings her to Houston Oct. 21. She felt compelled to write the book after the Gays in the Military debacle. "The crash of that issue on the heels of the high of the Clinton Administration made me decide to focus on the incredible differences we made. I wanted to write a book to show how terrific we are," said Osborn.

Arguing that our strategy must change, Osborn reflects on the successes our community has achieved. "The country is on our side in terms of discrimination. We've won on discrimination, in order to win tolerance and affirmation, coming out must be a more significant part of our strategy," insists Osborn.

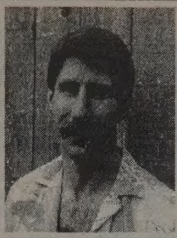
Osborn believes we are at the cusp of a new area, that we are morally equal to the rest of society and that we should learn from mistakes of the past. "Some of our political correctness and activist culture has hindered progress," she remarks. "We must wage the public opinion battle. I don't think we get anywhere telling folks what to do," said Osborn.

Osborn expressed disappointment in President Clinton for "pandering to the right." A dedicated and visionary activist, Osborn believes our community can obtain its goals of equality. "I want us to think about long term instead of reactive and short term. We need to build permanent institutions," she said. "Our national groups can only be as strong as our local groups," opines Osborn.

Osborn will be at Crossroads on Monday, Oct. 21 at 7pm. A reception in her honor will follow. She will read from the book and sign copies as well. Crossroads is located at 1111 Westheimer. For more information, call 942—0147.

Gay Today

by Glen Webber



The Power of The Quilt

The power of the AIDS quilt is unmistakable. It draws together thousands of people whose lives have been affected by AIDS. It also draws the curious who wonder what The Quilt is about. The enormous crowds who attended the viewing in Washington this past weekend are no doubt overwhelmed by its intense message. The message is very simple. More than 300,000 people in this country have died of AIDS. The Quilt tells their story and the story of those they leave behind.

An older couple kneel beside their son's panel smiling as if they are having a family reunion. A widowed mother weeps gently while laying flowers on the panel of her son. She had lost her husband only a few years ago and now her only child. A frail man in a wheelchair gazes at the applique of his lover's face on colorful cloth. Several friends are standing next to him admiring the panel that they completed a mere six months ago. A man holds up his tiny daughter so she can better see her mother's panel. He and his wife had met in a drug rehab program. They found out they were both HIV positive after the birth of their child. He is thankful that his daughter is HIV negative and that his sister and her family will be able to take care of her when his panel in The Quilt is sewed into place next to his wife's. Nieces and nephews run around their uncle's panel chasing one another. They are unaware of its significance.

I have always valued being Uncle Glen to my niece and nephews. They in enrich my life in ways that I never thought possible, and it is hard for me to imagine my life without them and their lives without me.

As their eyes move from panel to panel, visitors to The Quilt wonder "who were these people"? I can answer that question because they were people like me and many of them were my friends. This is what I can tell you about them. They were vibrant people, 20 to 40 year olds, living productive lives and the illness cut them down in their prime. Their battle to live was inspiring, not giving up until their strength was totally depleted. Over the years, I have been impressed with the amount of pain they were able to endure. Another thing that has impressed me is that most of them survived as long as they could and without losing their sense of humor.

Many are impacted as I was the first time I saw The Quilt by the overwhelming sense of loss to our society. We have lost so many, some our best artists, writers, and creative people as well as so many community leaders. A whole humanity of people who worked to make this world a better place to live. I am grateful for their accomplishments and I hope my writing will help the world to be a better place.

Like a lot of the visitors to The Quilt I have watched my closest circle of friends die. There were five of them and they each had an impact on my life. Mike Lefluer and I met at Spotts Park after one of the Pride parades. He was a very handsome, personable man and we became fast friends. He taught me how to use wit and charm, and to be sociable at parties. He called me everyday at 10am and we would have a "chatfest." The worst thing for me after he died was that the phone stopped ringing at 10am.

George Blair was my workout partner at the gym. For three years we worked out together. I was impressed the way he managed to build up his muscular body to stay as strong as he could. He was my inspiration to work harder on myself. He had a tremendous impact on my life and I miss him everyday,

One friend, who I had known ever since I was 18 years old was John Conte. We met in San Antonio while he was going to med school. He went into the Marines as a doctor. He was also a serious body builder and the few times we worked out together he would push me to use the heavier weights. I was a wimp then, but I did the best I could. A strange thing about our relationship was that we would run into each other everywhere I moved. When I lived in San Francisco, I ran into him while he was on vacation there. It may have been fate that our lives entertwined so much, but I feel so lucky to have been his friend.

Norman Guttman was a brilliant lawyer and an activist. He threw the best parties I ever went to. His annual "Academy Awards" parties are legendary. I was never sure why it was that such a sophisticated person was friends with me, but I am so glad he was. He never resolved his anger about being sick with AIDS and his death was very painful for me. He was a true friend and supporter.

Of course, my closest friend that I have lost was Kelse, my lover of thirteen years. His death is the most painful of all. He continues to have a great impact on my life. If I am in a situation where I am not sure what I should do, I ask myself "what would Kelse do?" and that helps me decide how to handle the problem at hand. I know we would have been together forever if he had lived.

I would like to have another close relationship before I die. I am afraid that my sickness makes others not want to be involved with me. I miss the love and passion a lover offers as well as the comfort of companionship. I hope I don't die without knowing love again as that would be the cruelest thing that could happen to me.

When you see The Quilt please think of my friends and all the departed ones who have lost their battle with AIDS. And for those of us still fighting, remember us in your prayers. We need your love and support.

Senators Evade Outings

FROM GLAAD RELEASE

As with Senator Herb Kohl (D-Wis) and Representative John Kasich (R-Ohio), both Senators Larry Pressler (R-SD) and Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) are feeling the heat since voting for the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). Sen. Pressler has addressed rumors that he is gay. Author Alexander Cockburn's recent book, *Washington Babylon* states that Pressler married in 1982 "amid speculation he was gay." Pressler insists that Cockburn is connected to Democratic opponent Rep. Tim Johnson and released a campaign ad attacking Johnson, calling the claim "mean-spirited, malicious and untrue." Johnson has repeatedly denied any connection to the gay allegations and claims that it is Pressler that is making the gay rumors an issue.

Sen. Mikulski, on the other hand, is remaining hushed about her rumored homosexuality. In the *Baltimore Alternative* , Mikulski refused to comment during repeated questions by a reporter, including asking point-blank if she is a Lesbian.

Erratum: A headline in the Sept. 30 issue of GLAADlines implied that Senator Herb Kohl of Wisconsin is a Republican. He is actually a Democrat. GLAAD regrets any confusion this may have caused.

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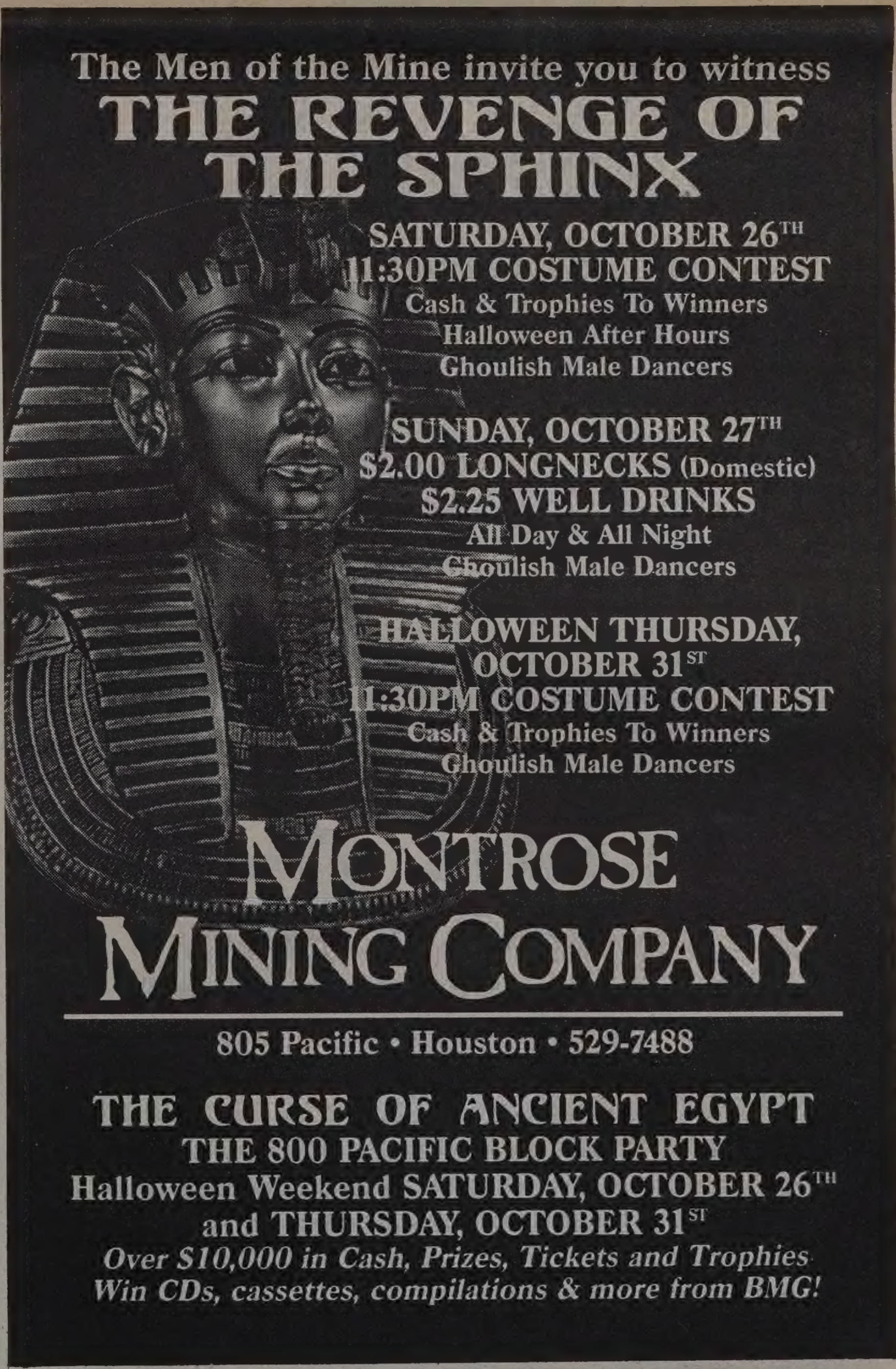

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THE OUTsider

by Curt Morrison

Wake-Up Call

"Protecting religious freedom. It's the foundation of our nation," the narrator intones in an political advertisement touting a candidates support of the Defense of Marriage Act and opposition to late term abortions on christian radio stations. The candidate: Bill Clinton. Excerpts: "It's not the only time he's defended our values...President Clinton signed the Defense of Marriage Act. ...President Clinton has fought for our values and America is better for it." If I hadn't been informed, I'd have thought I was listening to an ad from Pat Buchanan or Jesse Helms.

If ever there was a time for our community to realize that our policy of steadfast allegiance to one party is ill-fated, this is the time. To begin with our community literally turned a deaf ear to the President's earlier remarks owing his support of DOMA to his belief that it threatens family values—a notion that we denigrated Republicans for espousing. To be sure, there was some lip service from leaders of national community organizations expressing disappointment and the likes followed by the usual rhetoric: this is the most pro-gay administration in the history of our movement. Moreover, the Clinton administration took pains arguing that this was an election year ploy by Republicans to force the presidents hands and that it was "gay baiting of the worst kind." Not Surprisingly, the administration seems to have no problem behaving in the same manner.

The only bright side to this entire matter is that the President does consider the gay and lesbian community equal in at least one sense. Clinton has demonstrated that he will flip-flop on our issues just as quickly as he will on any other issue if the polls indicate it will be of benefit to his personal agenda. The sheer lunacy, devoid of any logic, behind the placement of the ad escapes me. Certainly, the Christian Coalition and their ilk are not going to support this President regardless of how many ads he runs on Christian radio. That may not have been the intended outcome. Perhaps the President knew this would draw the ire of the community and make headlines that would benefit him with the general electorate—an electorate which overwhelmingly supported DOMA according to polls. Make no mistake, this President would not hesitate for one moment to stir up a little controversy at the expense of our community, especially if it would benefit his candidacy and be conducive to his reelection chances.

Before anyone out there starts lambasting me with mail concerning Republican nominee Bob Dole's advertisements running on Christian radio, I am fully aware of them and take issue with those ads as well. Dole's ads state the former senators opposition to Gays in the military. There is one fundamental difference between the two camps advertisements. Bob Dole has not been an ardent proponent of our community and has never purported to claim otherwise. With the exception of his co-sponsorship of the Ryan White Act and his office's non-discrimination policy, Dole's record on gay and lesbian issues is dismal at best. President Clinton, on the other hand, has purported to be concerned about our community's issues. To date, that support has been marginal at best and has only been present on a verbal basis. I have much more respect for someone who is honest and upfront—something that seems to be remiss from politicians entirely.

The question that arises is: Why should anyone be surprised at this latest flip-flop from the president? In many ways we have brought it upon ourselves. Would you worry about making a decision that could offend and irritate an ardent and supportive constituency if you knew that they would unequivocally support you primarily because they do not have an alternative. Think about it. Our community cannot continue the practice of annihilating Republicans for their rhetorical utterances blaming homosexuals for the demise of family values and then turn around and defend the President, a Democrat for uttering the same nonsense. It's hypocrisy in the worst form. We as a community need to decide what our primary concern is. Are we on a mission to obtain civil rights or are we on a mission to coral liberalism back into vogue? No one should take this community's vote for granted and if they are able to do so, then we need to take a long look at how and why we allowed that to happen. Otherwise, we will never obtain the equality so many of us have been fighting for throughout our adult lives.

As far as I'm concerned, neither candidate running for President is deserving of our support. Both of their records are suspect. From Bob Dole's Log Cabin debacle to his stance on Gays in the military. No one expects Bob Dole to champion the cause of our civil rights precisely because he has never indicated he would. Clinton has and in this pundit's opinion integrity is important. An individual's integrity is the only thing that they have entire control over and as such provides an impetus for credibility. Where was the President when we demonstrated in Washington? Why won't he release the names of the 100 or more "openly" gay staff he has purportedly appointed? Why didn't he do more for the community when he had a Democratic controlled Congress? And finally, why is he airing ads on the religious rights turf touting his support of DOMA?

Our community is at a crossroads and where we go from here is entirely up to us. Talk is cheap and it won't get our community's problems solved. The only way to do that is by getting involved. Regardless of your political persuasion, please call the White House and tell them you don't appreciate being taken for granted and demand that an explanation be forthcoming as to why the defeat of our right to get married is being hailed as a family value.

NOTE: The University of Houston College Republicans is holding a dinner reception in the Conrad Hilton Ballroom this Sunday, Oct. 20 from 3-7 pm. The topic is "Diversity in the GOP." Log Cabin Republican State Pres. Dale Carpenter will speak at the event. For information, contact David Baker 360-4279 or 785-2426.

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PLAIN SPEAKING

by Larry Lingle

It's Been Done

A funny thing happened on the way to The Quilt, I didn't go. With plane ticket in hand and a reservation for the same hotel room facing the White House that Bill and I had shared during the 1993 March on Washington, I flat chickened out.

I guess what did it for me was the memory of an incident last June. I had gone to New York the week before Gay Pride Day on business and stopped in the Saks store to visit an old friend of ours who worked in men's underwear (no pun intended). Progressing through the store I passed a display of quilt panels arrayed in anticipation of Gay Pride. And instinctively I found myself unable to even bear a glance at these symbols of loss. Eight months and several hundred Zoloft pills later the memories remain too fresh, too painful.

Instead, I followed the weekend news on The Quilt, what there was of it. The local television stations and the Houston Chronicle were enthralled with the Hispanic Immigration march, the promoters of which optimistically projected a hundred thousand participants. Buried in a New York Times article was an estimate that three-quarters of a million people including the First and Second Families, viewed The Quilt.

IF the news media focused on any aspect of The Quilt weekend it was a handful of desperate survivors of ACT UP throwing ashes on the White House lawn. Even to die-hard members of the gay and lesbian community this act seemed an incongruous gesture to another time. To the news media it was a photo op. as was the intent of the participants.

It is not even surprising that neither Dour Dole or the unChristian Coalition took issue with Clinton's appearance among The Quilt's panels. The Names Project, endowed with preserving and maintaining The Quilt, has worked hard to remove the Quilt from the real of a gay issue. It has become, rightly so, a symbol of all those lost to AIDS, a rallying point for the national grief which has now touched millions of households, irrespective of politics or orientation.

But we cannot escape the reality that The Quilt was conceived and fostered by Gays and their immediate supporters, particularly the parents of the thousands of gay men already lost. The hundreds of thousands of men and women who did go to Washington last weekend were from this same community.

Initially, I was disturbed by the media coverage of the lesser protest organized by Hispanics. But from a news worthy point of view the emphasis is understandable. The Quilt is old news, frankly "it's been done." Only its size—and the presence of the Clintons/Gores and Elizabeth Taylor—is fresh news.

Just as the Million Man March a year ago focused attention on a new militancy among African-American men, the Hispanic march, regardless of size, represented the political stirrings of a growing minority which in the past has seen little political activity beyond efforts among migrant workers. Yet the Hispanic population will become the largest minority by the next century.

It has been a cliche of politics that Hispanics don't vote, primarily because they fear registering to vote or in any other way becoming recognized. It has not even been clear that Hispanics will turn out in large numbers for a Hispanic candidate, a key element among the African-American community.

This is the same political wisdom which prevailed toward Black voters before the Voting Rights Act of 1964. And while Black precincts still do not produce the turnout found in wealthy areas, they provide a more solid block of voters for their preferred candidates. With time and effort the Hispanic vote will approach the impact already realized by the Cuban-American community in Florida.

The Hispanic march's immediacy is evident in the running battle over immigration and welfare reform. The Quilt has become so nonpolitical that the actions of the ACT UP demonstrators seemed a jarring reminder that it was a preceding administration which was far more deserving of this gesture of anguish.

Whatever Clinton's pluses or minuses on AIDS, he has removed the White House as a symbol of hostility, as a place where never an AIDS word is spoken. It can be argued that even Clinton's appearance at The Quilt was a safe gesture which even his harshest critics on the right failed to fault. But it remains a political fact that he was there, the first president to attend even a display of the Quilt. Dour Dole was holed up in his Washington headquarters that very day planning his latest strategy of personal attack on Clinton, with nary a thought that he could gamble on a stroll among the panels.

Yet Dour Dole is the candidate of the national Log Cabin Republicans. These erstwhile relics of conservatism would sooner bow to the anti-gay Dole and Jack Kemp than acknowledge our progress in the last four years. These Log Cabineers should be right at home in the Republican big tent with the profit—motivated drug companies which sniffed the foul odor of even bigger profits to come as many of our fellow Gays live longer, sustained by the costliest regime yet.

There is one saving grace as our daylight hours decline, signaling the approaching finale to the dullest Presidential race in my memory. I harbor the distinct feeling that all three candidates—I will at least acknowledge Perot—wish only that it were over as well. Certainly the American public's fondest wish is a return to a semblance of normality. And America's businesses are all too eager to get on with the American way of life—the holiday spending. Far more important to who wins on the 5th of November is whether this will be a big Christmas spending season. After all, that's what capitalism is all about.

GENRE Wins 'OZZIE' Awards

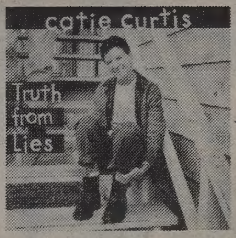
Oct. 9, 1996, Los *Angeles—Genre* magazine was honored by ***Folio*** magazine with two 1996 Ozzie awards for design excellence. The wins, *Genre's* fourth and fifth in the last two years, were in the categories of "Best Cover" and "Best Use of Illustration."

"These awards only confirm what I already know," says Richard Settles, founder and publisher of the gay men's monthly. "That Greg Evans' art direction, under the supervision of Editor-in-Chief Ron Kraft, is second to none—and I'm not just talking about only gay books, but mainstream ones as well. I can't express how proud I am of what they have done with *Genre* ."

Genre has the largest paid circulation of any gay men's magazines in the country. It is currently in its sixth year of publication.

On October 6, 1996 New York City hosted the First Annual Gay/Lesbian American Music Awards....Guess where you can find the winners?

Michael Callen



On October 19 and 20, the Montrose is hosting the Westheimer Street Fair....Guess where you can go to get away from it?

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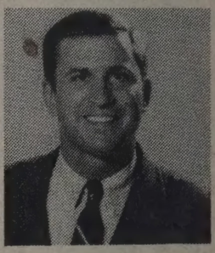
This & That...

by Jon Anthony



The news of the week: **Madonna** gave birth to a daughter and the paparazzi are waiting in the wings. Give the Diva a break.... **Melissa Etheridge** will portray rock/blues legend **Janis Joplin** in a bio-pic for an upcoming TriStar film. Based on the book *Love, Janis* by the late singer's sister Laura, the film will begin production in early 1997.... **Julia Roberts** and **Mel Gibson** began work this week on *The Conspiracy Theory*, a thriller set in New York. In the film Gibson portrays a paranoid conspiracy theorist cab driver. The plot: one of his theories is true. Roberts, who was reportedly paid a hefty $12 million, will play a Justice Department lawyer.... **Woody Allen** will be a featured voice in the upcoming animated film *Ants*, due in 1998.... **Whoopi Goldberg** will take over the role of Pseudolus in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* on Broadway. The role will be adjusted so that Goldberg can portray the part as a woman. **Nathan Lane** garnered raves during his stint in the production.... Famed film director **Francis Ford Coppola** will helm the screen adaptation of **John Grisham**'s bestselling novel *The Rainmaker*. The film, produced by **Michael Douglas**' production company, has cast **Matt Damon**, **Claire Danes** and **Danny Glover** to date. Douglas is currently busy at work on *The Game*, co-starring **Sean Penn**. Incidentally, **Jodie Foster** settled her $14.5 million dollar lawsuit over a dispute that left her out of The Game. Foster was set to star with Douglas in the film, a verbal commitment that did not come to fruition. Terms were not disclosed.... NBC will move its freshman sitcom *Men Behaving Badly* to a new time period on Wednesdays. The network will air Badly at 8pm and move *NewsRadio* to 8:30pm beginning next month. Badly, a bawdy comedy that lives up to its moniker, is the network's highest-rated new sitcom.... The producers of *Independence Day*, which zapped $300 million at the box-office, were given carte blanc to make what ever film they wanted as a followup. Their choice: a remake of *Godzilla*. The film will start production in the spring and Columbia TriStar's promotes that it will be the monster movie for the summer. Really!?.... **Glenn Close** looks ravishingly devilish in the live-action version of Disney's upcoming *101 Dalmatians*. The highly anticipated film with Close as the menacing Cruella De Vil hits theaters Nov. 22.... Comedian **Joe Piscopo** will appear as a special guest at the Houston Police Activities League (PAL) first ever Heroes Banquet on Oct. 17 at 7:30pm. For ticket information contact PAL at 221-0602.... CBS has given **Valerie Bertinelli** another chance by signing her to headline a sitcom for next season.... Mercury Record will release *Joan Osborne: Early Recordings* on Nov. 5. The album is a compilation of her best recordings from two of her previous albums prior to her rise to superstardom.... **Elizabeth Taylor**, **Ron Howard**, **Edward G. Robinson**, **Frank Sinatra**, **Dean Martin**, **Ingrid Bergman** and **Mia Farrow** are just a few of the world renowned subjects in the new book *Yul Brynner: Photographer* (Harry N. Abrams Inc., $39.95). The late-actor was notorious for hiding a camera wherever he went and taking extraordinary photos, many of which were published in *Life* magazine.... Director **Martin Scorsese** will be honored with an American Film Institute's Lifetime Achievement Award this year.... **Placido Domingo** has become the proud proprietor of a restaurant. His *Restaurant Domingo* opens later this month on Manhattan's Upper East Side.... **Ann-Margaret** makes a rare television appearance in the CBS movie *Blue Rodeo*. **Kris Kristofferson** co-stars in this poignant tale of a woman's struggle. Rodeo airs Oct. 20 at 8pm.... **George Burns**, who died shortly after his 100 birthday this year, will return as God in the tentatively titled film *The Best Man*. Burns voice will be done by imitators and he will be computer re-created. This will be the fourth installment of the *Oh, God!* films.... **Al Pacino** is absolutely phenomenal in *Richard III*. The film is laugh provoking fun and Pacino does a marvelous job at bringing the Shakespeare classic to the big screen in a manner that resonates.... CBS' highly touted sitcom *Ink* starring **Ted Danson** and **Mary Steenburgen** makes its debut this Monday Oct. 21. Produced by *Murphy Brown* creator **Diane English**, CBS is banking on their starpower to draw huge ratings.... All four of the major networks are in a bidding war for the rights to *The First Wives Club*. The networks believe the premise would be great sitcom material.... **Milestones: Ted Bessell** died at the age of 61 last week. Bessell was best known as **Marlo Thomas**' boyfriend Donald in the hit sitcom *That Girl* (1966-71). Bessell starred in several other sitcoms and won an Emmy for producing *The Tracy Ullman Show* in 1989.... **Making the Rounds: Mandy Patinkin** delivers a compelling performance in *Broken Glass* airing on PBS' Masterpiece Theatre Oct. 20 at 9pm. **Elizabeth McGovern** co-stars in the *Arthur Miller* play. **Geraldine Ferraro** and **Larry King** appear as themselves on an amusing episode of *Murphy Brown* Oct. 21 at 8pm on CBS. **Al Pacino** visits the *Today Show* on NBC Oct. 22 at 7am. Funnyman **Don Rickles** checks in with **Jay Leno** on the *Tonight Show* Oct. 22 and singer **Mary Chapin Carpenter** chats with him on Oct. 24. Tonight airs at 10:35pm. **Lily Tomlin** and **Sheryl Crow** visit with **David Letterman**'s CBS *Late Show* on Oct. 22 at 10:35pm. **Loretta Lynn**, singer-actress **Alice Faye** and screen legend **Jean Harlow** are all profiled on this weeks A&E *Biography* series which airs weekdays at 7pm and encores at 11pm. **Chaka Kahn** and **Sissy Spacek** guest on *The Rosie O'Donnell Show* Oct. 25 at 4pm on ABC affiliate Channel 13 and **Bill Murray** talks to **Larry King** on his live show at 8pm on CNN Oct. 25. **Jenny Jones** goes nostalgic when she welcomes the **Emotions**, **Tommy Tutone**, **KC & the Sunshine Band** and **Toni Basil** to her show for a '70's reunion fest on Oct. 25. Jones airs daily at 11am on NBC affiliate Channel 2.... **Top of the Charts:** *Seinfeld* won the weekly Nielsens ratings contest. *The Ghost and The Darkness* debuted at the top of the box-office, albeit barely. *The First Wives Club* came in second by a few hundred thousands. Both films raked in more than $9 million at the box-office, according to Exhibitor Relations. *The Long Kiss Goodnight* opened in third place making nearly $9 million itself. *Macarena* is still the top single and **Nirvana's** *From the Muddy Banks of the Wishkah* dominates the album charts, according to Billboard magazine. **Stephen King** (*Desperation*) and his alter ego **Richard Bachman** (*The Regulators*) dominate the New York Times bestseller's list for fiction. Both titles are available at Crossroads Market. *The Dilbert Principle* by **Scott Adams** is the #1 non-fiction title.... **Quote of the Week:** *"I don't think it's a lightning bolt. We're taught that it is. We're told that the room will shake and you'll know. And it's just not..."* - **Brooke Shields** in a TV Guide interview talking about her relationship with tennis ace **Andre Agassi**.

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Roxanne Lee Love

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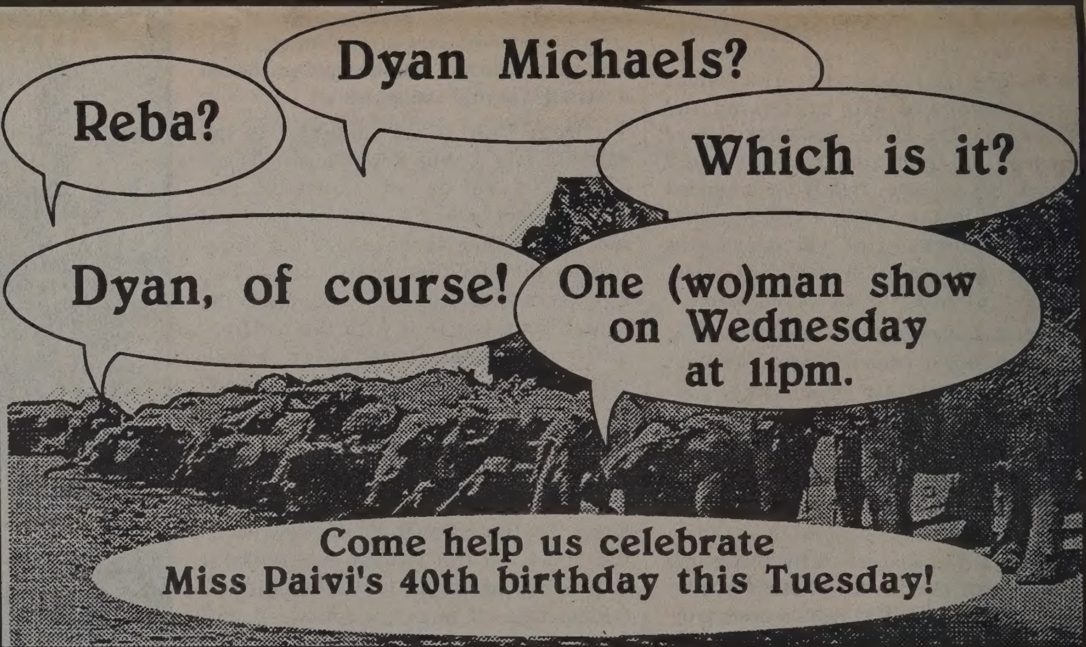
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MON 10/21 MALE STRIP CONTEST at 11:00pm with Paivi
TUE 10/22 Amateur/Talent Night at 11:00pm with Dyan Michaels
WED 10/23 Dyan Michaels ONE (WO)MAN SHOW AT 11PM and Granny's Burgers

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October 24
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Tiffany Powers,
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Hostess

Vanessa Raye

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- *Wednesdays*
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- *Fridays*
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Lovers Can Break More Than Hearts--Part II

Domestic Violence In Our Community

The Myths & The Facts

By **BLANCA BALDERAS**

A ugly secret of the gay and lesbian community is the fact that partner abuse and dating violence happens in our relationships just as they do in "straight" relationships. The myth is that it doesn't happen and we wish that were true. The horrible reality is that battering happens in one out of four of our relationships. Despite the fear and community denial, more and more Gay men and Lesbians are speaking out about battering and other forms of abuse perpetrated by intimate partners.

One of the myths that our community has about domestic violence is that it occurs primarily where strict roles (such as Butch/Femme) are practiced, or in certain groups such as the Leather and S/M crowd. The truth is that violence and abuse are found in all parts of our community. No group regardless of race, class, level of income, ethnicity, age, ability, education, politics, religion, or lifestyle is free from domestic violence. Size and weight, butchiness or queeniness have nothing to do with whether or not a person will be a victim or an abuser. The National Leather Association (NLA) passed a statement on domestic violence in 1991 calling on the organization to confront this issue and provide broad education about the critical differences between consensual S/M and abuse. The motto of NLA is "Safe, Sane, and Consensual".

You may think that you could easily and always identify an abuser when you meet one, so it would be easy not to get involved with one. The truth is that there is no way to tell by looking. Gay men and Lesbians who batter or abuse are not crazy and are seldom seen as mean. They can be friendly, social, charming and even physically unintimidating. In fact, they are sometimes everyone's best friend and the life of the party. They can be kind. They have their good side and other people don't have trouble falling in love with them. Their victims can be individuals who are strong, capable, and dynamic.

Many people think that violence is caused by factors such as substance abuse, stress, childhood violence, or provocation. The fact is that a batterer chooses to be violent and is responsible for his/her behavior. Individuals may deny this responsibility and want to find excuses. Alcohol and drugs do not cause domestic violence. Stopping substance abuse does not guarantee that the battering will stop. Most importantly, there is no direct cause and effect relationship between these factors and domestic violence. There is NEVER a justification for it.

Another myth is that anger always leads to violence. We all get angry sometimes and that is OK. The problem is not anger as we usually experience it. The problem is when that anger has built is acted out in an inappropriate way. When someone acts out their anger without taking into account the consequences of their actions and where there has been an atmosphere of intimidation created within the relationship.

Next week: October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. This article is Part II of a three part series. Part III of "Breaking More Than Hearts" will appear in next week's issue of The Houston Voice.

Blanca Balderas is a Crisis Counselor for the Domestic Violence Unit of the Houston Police Dept.

Writers Honored

Lifetime Achievement Award for Joan Nestle

A gala awards ceremony on Oct. 25 at the Algonquin Hotel will honor Joan Nestle, winner of the Bill Whitehead Award for Lifetime Achievement, and Felice Picano and Sarah Schulman, winners of this year's Ferro-Grumley Awards for Outstanding Novel for *Like People in History* and *Rat Bohemia* . The affair will also mark the presentation of the Robert Chesley Playwriting Award to Susan Miller, and the Lifetime Achievement Award to Robert Patrick.

These four awards are unusual among those given for lesbian or gay-themed writing because they each carry a cash prize of $1000. While the Ferro-Grumley and Robert Chesley Awards are presented by Stephen Grecco and The Robert Chesley Foundation in cooperation with the Publishing Triangle, the selection process for the Bill Whitehead Award depends solely upon the Triangle membership. Each Spring, Whitehead ballots are mailed to all members in good standing, who then have the opportunity to nominate a writer of their choice to be recognized for "an outstanding body of work with significant lesbian or gay content." Members also nominate a panel of judges who consider the nominations and select a winner.

In odd-numbered years, the Whitehead award goes to a man; this year, it will go to a woman. Previous Whitehead winners have been:. Edmund White, Audre Lorde, James Purdy, Adrienne Rich, Samuel Delany, Judy Grahn, and Jonathan Ned Katz. The cash prizes for the Whitehead Award and the Ferro-Grumley Awards are drawn from a charitable trust established specifically for this purpose through bequests from the author Alan Barnett and editor George Stambolian. The Bill Whitehead Award is named for the late editor-in-chief of E.P. Dutton, who worked with authors like Edmund White, Anne Rice (writing as A.N. Roquelaire), and Doris Grumbach. The Ferro-Grumley Awards are presented in memory of Robert Ferro and Michael Grumley, novelists and lovers who encouraged many young writers. The Robert Chesley Award was established by the playwright Victor Bumbalo in honor of his late friend, who was the author of, among other works, *Jerkers* .

For more information about joining the Publishing Triangle, which also sponsors National Lesbian and Gay Book Month, BookAIDS, and various other projects, please write to PO Box 114, Prince Street Station, New York, NY 10012, or email at PubTriangle@nycnet.com.

A Silver Lining in the Marriage Cloud

By JOHN D'EMILIO

Let's admit it. The short-term prospects for the acceptance of same-gender marriage are not promising. A third of the states have passed laws prohibiting recognition of such marriages from another state. By a lopsided vote, Congress has passed the so-called Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), and the President has signed it. And polls indicate that, while most Americans don't give much thought to the issue, when they do think about, they oppose it. It's true that the courts in Hawaii might pave the way for legalization there. And our activist lawyers tell us that the new anti-marriage laws will not withstand constitutional challenges. But it is also true that reliance on the courts is always an "iffy" proposition. In short, the odds are not good that civil marriage will be coming to us any time soon. And most of us know this.

In a recent poll by *The Advocate* , more respondents thought gay marriage would never be legal than that it would happen in less than two years. A large majority predicted it would take a decade or more of campaigning before we succeed. If that's the case, then we need seriously to talk strategy. What useful information can we glean from this year's historic marriage debate? A lot, I think. For instance: though our marriages are not yet legal, the debate is propelling large numbers of us to get married anyway, in churches and synagogues, in rented halls and in public settings. These sometimes huge gatherings in which we openly affirm our love are—dare I use the word—"normalizing" our relationships for the many heterosexuals who witness the joy and hopefulness of our unions—an amazing amount of editorial opinion is with us. Journalists have scrutinized the debate carefully, and many of them cannot find a single good reason for denying us the right to marry.

In the same month that DOMA became law, the city of Denver and the corporate behemoth IBM extended domestic partnerships to their employees. Most importantly, even many of the opponents of same-gender marriage have moved a great distance in the last year. Roy Romer, the Governor of Colorado, opposes same-gender marriages but in the course of his state's debate said that law and public policy needed to change to give stability and protection to our relationships. Senator Patty Murray of Washington, while supporting DOMA, also came out forcefully for domestic partnership laws. And there are others like them in Congress and in state legislatures. What does this mean for us strategically? A great opportunity has opened for us. We can use the editorial and opinionmaker views that support us, hold elected officials to their word, and propel the movement for domestic partnership recognition and benefits forward. Employee groups all around the country are doing this already. They are seeing the workplace as an important location of change, and recognize that partnership benefits are a logical demand to make.

But why not make this a broad-based nationwide legislative campaign as well? Just as we saw antigay marriage legislation debated in most of the states this year, why can't we see domestic partnership benefits become the debate of 1997 and 1998 in city councils and state legislatures everywhere. The advantages would be great. The educational value would be enormous. It's an opportunity to win allies a step at a time. Any victories we achieve would also bring practical benefits to many couples. And, it lays the groundwork for future change, creates more options for many folks, and may open unexpected possibilities.

The marriage issue has tapped into a very deep emotional place for many of us. I can almost hear some readers saying that a campaign for domestic partnership recognition is settling for second best, is selling out and accepting half a loaf. But let's think historically for a minute. The African-American civil rights movement always knew that segregation was wrong, pure and simple. At the same time, movement leaders thought strategically about how to make change. They did not begin with a full-frontal assault on the heart of segregation. They worked along the periphery at first, attacking the separate but equal doctrine in places like medical schools and graduate education. Only when they had built up a base of initial victories did they go after segregation in the public schools; the smaller victories laid the groundwork for the big ones. It would be a shame if we let the emotional power of the marriage issue cloud our sense of how to move forward and accumulate victories along the way. Despite our losses, this year's debate has softened the ground. Let's start ploughing.

John D'Emilio is the Director of NGLTF Policy Institute .

HOUSTON VOICE MAIL

Letters to the Editor

As a "hesitant" vendor of Spectrum '96, I made two trips to the George Brown Convention Center to set up the "dog and pony show" for my business. On both visits I was hit with comments of how **The Voice** had "ruined" Spectrum. Curiously enough, I was hearing these remarks on Friday *before* the event even opened its doors on Saturday morning.

I was curious enough about the article to find a copy of **The Voice** and read what it said. It was just too impressive thinking that you could have that much control on the community from an article on page 29 in the back section of the paper (admittedly, I was just a bit jealous).

Frankly Deborah, I don't think that it was one of your better pieces. It was so damn factual that it was boring. If I had not been so keenly interested in the content, I would have never read the entire article.

Alan, how whiney and irresponsible can you be? I suppose your letter of last week answers that question.

The concept of a community business expo is great and hopefully, The Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, LiB, and/or EPAH can take the lead to have such an event next year. One that will be of the caliber this community deserves.

P.S. Deborah, please teach me how to be a "Power Goddess."

Suzanne Anderson is the owner/broker of Suzanne Anderson Properties, a community activist and a Power Goddess in her own right .

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Pete, the new chef prepares Daily Specials

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Salisbury Steak
Chicken Fried Steak
Chicken & Rice Soup

TUESDAY
Meatloaf
Stuffed Bell Pepper
Vegetable Soup

WEDNESDAY
Chicken & Dumplings
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THURSDAY
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Cream of Broccoli Soup

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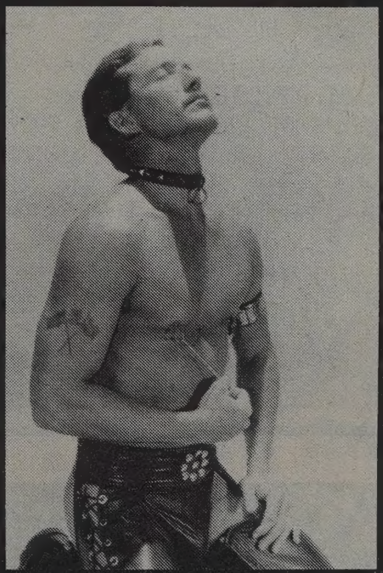

CUMMING ATTRACTIONS!
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Friday, Oct. 25 th:
FLASHBACK FRIDAY!
No Cover from 7-9!
Saturday, Oct. 26th:
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Sunday, Oct. 27th:
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No Cover 7-9!
Thursday, Oct. 31st:
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Tuesday • 7:00pm HIV Affected Group
7:00pm HIV Infected Group
Thursday • 7:30pm MIDWEEK SERVICE

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Church Calendar of Events

Friday-10/18

* "Your Sacred Self"—study group using the best seller by Wayne Dyer. COME learn more about your sacred self, sacred sisters & brothers, & the sacred, loving Creator God who made it so. At Kingdom Community Church 862-7533

* Catholic Mass at 10:00 am. Kolbe Project 522-8182

Sunday-10/19

* Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church Services "A Study in the Gospel of Mark" and "The 'I' Factor," (How to be a positive influence on others as a witness for Christ) at 10:00 am Praise and Worship, Ministry of the Word, Drama and Personal Ministry. 11:00 am at Maranatha Fellowship 528-6756

* MCCR worship services 9:00 am & 11:00 am 861-9149

* Worship Service 11:00 am at Faith and Hope Fellowship 773-4429

* Grace Lutheran Church Sunday school for all ages at 9:30 am Worship Service at 10:30 am 528-3269

* First Unitarian Universalist Church Sunday Services at 9:30 am and 11:30 am 526-5200

* Services at 5:30 pm Dignity Church 880-2872

* Community Gospel Church worship service at 11:00 am & 7:00 pm SERVICE IN NEW LOCATION, 4305 LILLIAN 880-9235

* Houston Mission Church worship service at 10:30 am 529-8225

* Kingdom Community Church worship service at 11:00 am Sunday School at 10:00 am 862-7533 "The Celestine Prophecy, An Experiential Guide" at 10:00 am

* Ecumenical Catholic Church Mass at 10:15 am 526-8095

* Covenant Baptist Church Worship service 1:30 pm and education hour at 3:00 pm 668-8830

* Bering Memorial United Methodist Church Worship service. 10:50 am Seekers class 9:15 am 526-1017

Monday-10/21

* Catholic Mass at 7:30 pm Kolbe Project 522-8182

* MCCR Handbell Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 pm 861-9149

Tuesday-10/22

* MCCR: Empowerment for Living support group & pot luck dinner at 6:00 pm, Gloryland Singers at 8:00 pm, The Gospel Ensemble at 6:00 pm 861-9149

* PROTECT meets at Bering Church. 520-7870.

* AIDS Affected/infected Groups meets at Community Gospel Church. 7:00 pm 880-9235

* Maranatha Fellowship meets to formulate its Mission Statement and Ministry plan at 7:15 pm. 528-6756.

Wednesday 10/23

* MCCR Bible Study 7:30 pm 861-9149

* Worship Service 7:30 pm at Faith and Hope Fellowship 773-4429

* MCCR: Jubilation Mixed Ensemble meets at 6:30 pm Midweek uplift service at 7:00 pm, Bible Study, Lecture Series & Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm 861-9149

* "A Course in Miracles"—Study Group using the book, published by the Foundation for Inner Peace, which is aimed at removing the blocks to our awareness of one's presence. Kingdom Community Church 7:30 pm 862-7533.

* Ecumenical Catholic Church Mass at 7:00 pm 526-8095

* Maranatha Fellowship MCC meets to formulate its Mission Statement and Ministry Plan from 7:00 pm to 9:15 pm. Everyone is welcome. 528-6756.

* "Coming Out to Yourself" at Kolbe Project. 7:30 pm. 522-8182.

Thursday-10/24

* Bible Study 7 Pm At Faith And Hope Fellowship 773-4429

* Community Gospel Church worship service 7:30 pm 880-9325

* Service for Healing with Anointing at Kolbe Project. 7:30 pm. 522-8182.

If you want an event listed in this section, please call 529-8490 .

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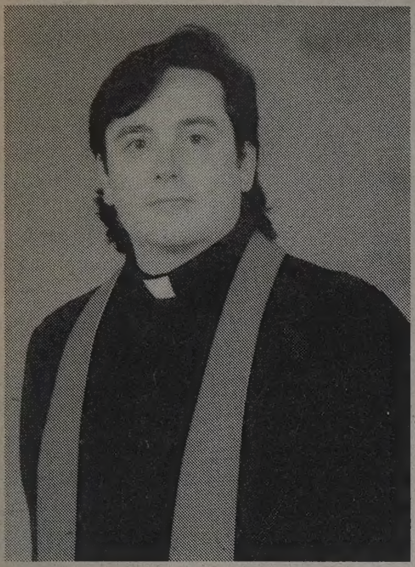
Lee Takes a Look at MCCR



Rev. Johnson of MCCR

MCCR and Voice Have Long Association

Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection (MCCR) began advertising with the Houston Voice on July 17, 1981. Presently located at 1919 Decatur, the church was not always so visible.

On the first Sunday of December, 1972, a few people celebrated their love of God in someone's home. As their membership grew, they moved to a bicycle shop. Wanting a place they could call home, a metal building on Jo Annie Street became the official location of MCCR. Charted in 1975 by the Metropolitan Community Church, founded by Rev. Troy Perry, MCCR could only claim a membership of fewer than 40 persons. Now, in 1996, MCCR boasts over 400 members with ongoing activities practically every day of the week!

In an interview with Rev. Dwayne Johnson and Associate Pastor Rev. Carolyn Mobley, I learned just how busy the church staff and members keep themselves! The Lay Ministry meets the 1st three Mondays of the month with the Board of Directors meeting on the 4th Monday. The Empowerment for Living Group (an HIV support group) meets on Tuesdays with a Pot Luck Dinner beginning at 6:30pm. On Wednesdays the action continues. Most of the music ministries practice on Wednesday, with a Bible Study and/or Lecture Series ongoing. On Thursday, the Excel Team has training sessions and plans for spiritual retreats. More than 20 groups (over 150 people) meet all over Houston each week for "Re Vision"—a long-range planning study group. CODA (Co-Dependents Anonymous) & SAA (Sex Addicts Anonymous) meet at the church, as do Gay & Lesbian Parents.

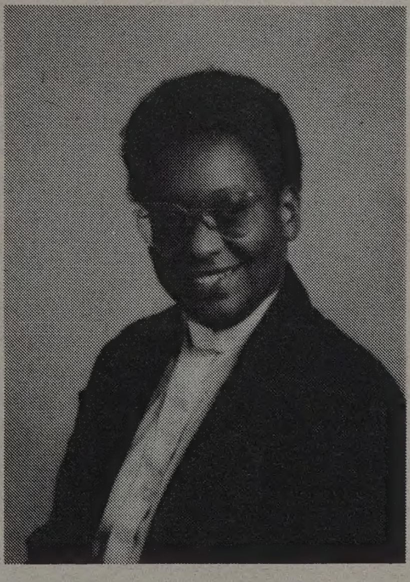
To become a member of MCCR, one must attend Membership Classes held in three general Sessions. Session I covers "Who Am I?"; Session II "What is MCC?" and Session III "Where Do I Fit In?" The philosophy of church membership in MCCR is that people are ready for membership in the church when they can: 1) Define their personal relationship with Christ; 2) Claim the power of Spiritual Gifts active in their life; 3) Affirm Christian Education as a life long adventure; 4) Find that Ministry Involvement brings fulfillment and joy; and 4) Celebrate their Tithe and financial giving to God as generous and consistent.

When asked about awkward or embarrassing moments of Revs. Johnson and Mobley, both readily offered several instances. Rev. Mobleyrecalled one instance involving Communion. After consecrating the cup, she noticed that the cup was empty. The Communion could not go on, so Rev. Mobley patiently nodded to one of the church staff members that something was missing and needed to be filled. Rev. Johnson shared the story of the Sunday that he was preaching about Peter the Apostle. Something happened as he was delivering the sermon as he talked about Peeper, not Peter. From that time on, Rev. Johnson slipped almost every time when he exalted Peeper, not Peter. He went on to say that being new to Houston, the biggest fear he had was the idea of having to shave his head since the humidity would make his hair fall. A few weeks later, he attended the Miss Camp America Pageant and decided it was okay to have big hair in Houston; ergo, no shaved head! Both Revs. Johnson & Mobley indicated that elements of reflective, meditative and peaceful deliveries were as important as humor in a sermon.

Future goals of MCCR were best summed by Rev. Johnson as "people working together building systems, programs, and confidence for our future." It is a definite part of MCCR's future to buy property to better serve the community and be more accessible. "If we move into something that seats less than 1,000, we are not looking realistically at our future," said Rev. Johnson. To further reiterate on that subject, last week's attendance teemed with over 600 worshipers. Realizing that first time visitors need to feel welcome, Rev. Johnson, several board members and long-time members relinquished their own seats so the visitors would feel at home. For Nursery employees to attend the service on Sunday, Rev. Mobley took over their duties. Not often you see a Pastor working in the Nursery!

Rev. Johnson summed up the interview best when he said that "MCCR can be a part of the fabric, texture and beauty where people can come and create family and raise their children in a loving and positive environment."

"Lee Takes a Look..." is an occasional feature of the Houston Voice showcasing some of our longtime advertisers to show our appreciation of their many years of support .



Rev. Mobley of MCCR

Guidelines for community organizations or individual writers interested in having articles printed in The Houston Voice. Please stop by or send a selfaddressed stamped business size envelope to:

Guidelines
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Houston, TX 77006.

The Lazy J
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SATURDAY SUPER SHOW
10:30 pm

Saturday, October 19
MC: Miss Peaches
Co-host:
Frankie Lane
Diane Jackson
Michaelay

Saturday, October 26
MC: Miss T.T.
& Erica Lane
Guests:
Tricia Blake
Special Guest

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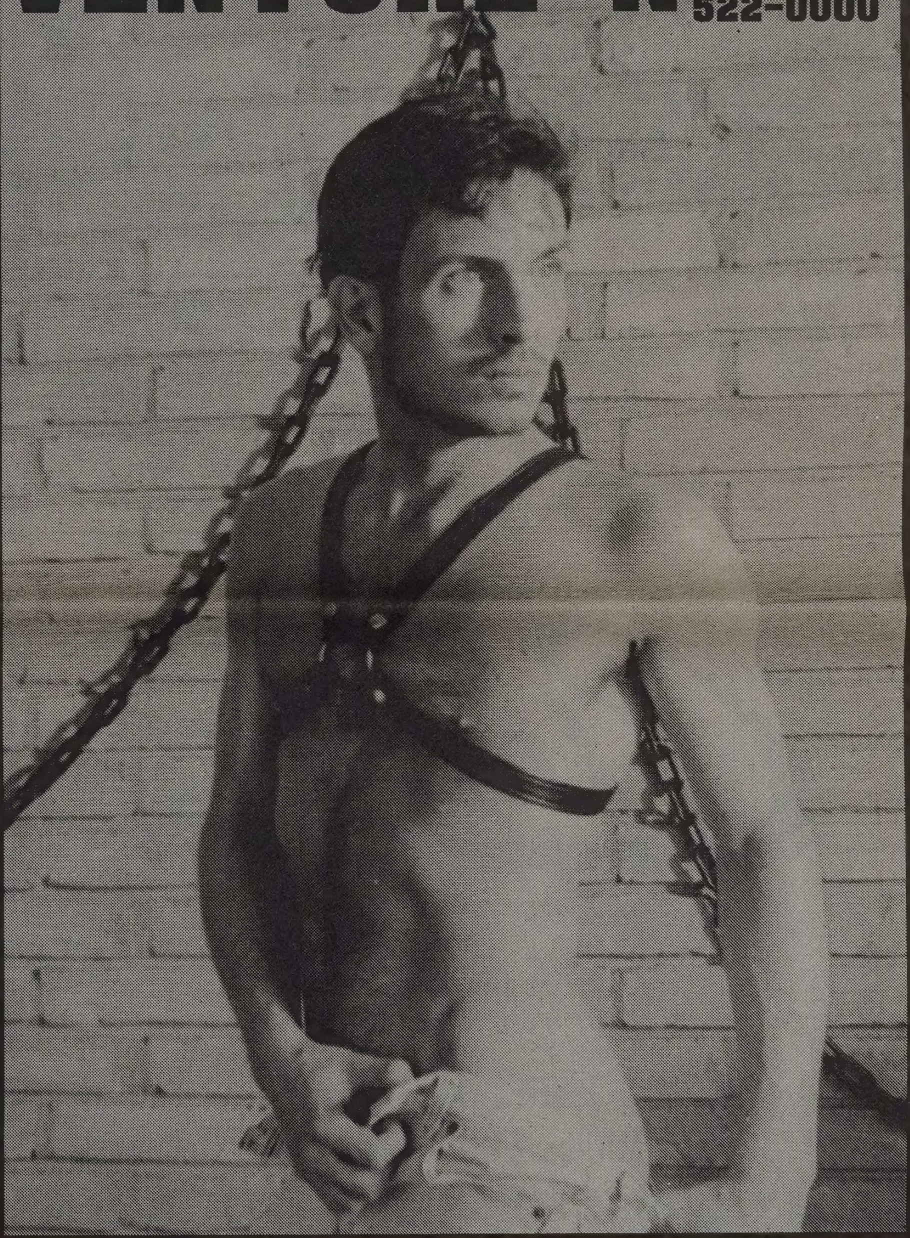

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 5:00pm till ??
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Showtime 11:00 pm
Happy birthday
October 19
Birthday Bash for
Paivi Lee Love & Miss Zack
11:00 pm
Happy birthday

Friday, October 18th	Saturday, October 19th	Sunday, October 20th
Miss Zack	Miss Zack	Miss Zack
Tony Santana	Paivi Lee Love	Erica Lane
Sivi Ross	Tony Santana	Ashlee Houston
Erica Lane	Dyan Michaels	Paivi Lee Love
	Michael Smothers	

Come on down on Thursday nights and see Talent Night
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Marlene & the Staff of
Chances
An All-People's Bar Dedicated to Community Unity!

Fri., Oct. 18, 9:00 pm
Bobbi Jo's Birthday Bash & Annual Drag Show
Simply Sinful!

Sat., Oct. 19
10 am - Mad Man Justice Band featuring Stevie Muree
11 am - RIDE the 300lbs. LUGE!! Shot specials all weekend!
3 pm - MISS WEST FEST CONTEST
Come donate a buck for our AIDS FIGHT
and help us elect a new QUEEN of the FESTIVAL!
5 pm - Shiela Lennon On-stage
9 pm - RSICSS COURT PRESENTATION of CANDIDATES
vying for Ruby & Jim's coveted titles, Empress &
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Sun., Oct. 20
10 am - Shiela Lennon entertains on our Outside Stage!
Come out early and enjoy her show!
Take A Ride on our 300lbs LUGE! ...OR... Have a cocktail in our Beer Garden and people watch.
3 pm - WATCH the crowning of our
NEW MISS WEST FEST after the drag show!
6 - 10 pm - Choc. Covered Cherries R & B Band
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What a World, What a World...

by Nancy Ford (appears bi-weekly in the Houston Voice)

Mayberry It Ain't

News from Lexington, North Carolina: 6-year old Johnathan Prevette was suspended from school, in case you haven't heard. Seems the little Prevette kissed one of his classmates—one of the opposite sex, even—on the cheek, and is being disciplined in response to the schools' rule prohibiting "unwarranted and unwelcome touching of one student by another." Wait 'til the school board sees the Robert Mapplethorpe greeting card Johnathan intends to give her for Valentine's Day.

Political Stuff

Did anyone else notice the unusual pre-debate exchange between Bill and Bob at the very beginning of the first presidential debate? I found it mighty odd that, instead of a more traditional greeting, Bob Dole seemed to brush something—perhaps a Big Mac stain off the President's tie. Cheers to Bill for not falling for it. I can't think of anything more embarrassing for our Commander-in-Chief to have glanced down and have his nose flicked on national television.

Religious Stuff

So the Pope is recovering from having his appendix removed. Answer me this: what is the point of being the Pope—His Holiness, God's right-hand-man on earth, the Catholic Mack Daddy... pick a form of address—if you can't have a little thing like an appendix miraculously cured without having to go through the muss and fuss of surgery? All those years of wearing those ridiculous hats ought to count for something. It's just an appendix, for Pete's sake. It's not like he's asking for a new heart or liver or something vital.

I hope he at least got some good painkillers. While he's still groggy, it might be the ideal time to slip him some post-appendix papal encyclicals to sign, reversing the church's stance on birth control, homosexuality, and the role of women in the church. Carpe dietetic diem!

By The Way—

Does anybody out there know anything about discrimination based on sexual orientation in institutions of higher learning? Without going into too much detail, someone I know and love who attends a private Christian college has, *How you say* ? come under the administrative gun for being a Lesbian.

Get this. This school has a handbook that actually states, and I quote: "(University in question) prohibits on its campus ... practice or advocacy of behavior such as, but not limited to homosexuality, premarital intercourse, abortion, adultery, polygamy, rape, child abuse, or prostitution." Is that legal? In 1996? In America? I'd love to know. If you or someone you know has had a similar experience, please call 713/620-2857. It may be time to mobilize.

Sign of The Times

So there I was, driving back to Houston after visiting my lover who is a student at Concordia University in Austin. Yes, it is a private Christian college, in case you were wondering. As I was driving, I was thinking about how strange it is that here we are, and people I know and love are still being persecuted for being gay.

Then I swung onto 59 Northbound from 610 and right there at the Weslayan exit, big as gay life, was that beautiful billboard: "Someone you know and love is gay." Congratulations to PFLAG and to us. It's not often we can make a positive statement for human rights *and* cheese off Eleanor Tinsley all at the same time.

Madonna and Child

Congratulations to Madonna and the father (I seem to have forgotten his name. Imagine that.) of new baby girl Lourdes Maria, born Oct. 14, and weighing in at 6 pounds, 9 ounces. That would be 6-9. That crazy Madonna. And what will Madonna sing to the baby when she's cranky? "Don't cry for me, Lourdes Maria..."

Transitions

Tupac is kaput.

Nancy Ford is Houston-based comedian and writer .

GLAMA Award Winners

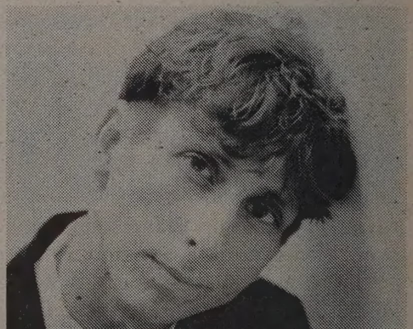
The Late Michael Callen Sweeps Awards

Oct. 6, 1996—New York City—Winners of the First Annual Gay and Lesbian Music Awards (GLAMA) were presented their awards in New York's Webster Hall. Nominees for each category were chosen by a judging panel comprised of music industry executives, music and gay media personnel, recording artists and others in the industry. All nominated recordings are by self-identified gay, lesbian, or bisexual artists that were commercially released in the United States between June 1, 1995 and May 31, 1996.

The Michael Callen Medal of Achievement, named for the singer/songwriter/activist who died in 1993, was presented to Tom Robinson (Cooking Vinyl), a singer/songwriter who gained notoriety for his 1978 hit, "Glad to be Gay."

The Outmusic Award, given to a recording artist, group or songwriter who has advanced gay/lesbian music through their work as an *out* musician was presented to Ferron.

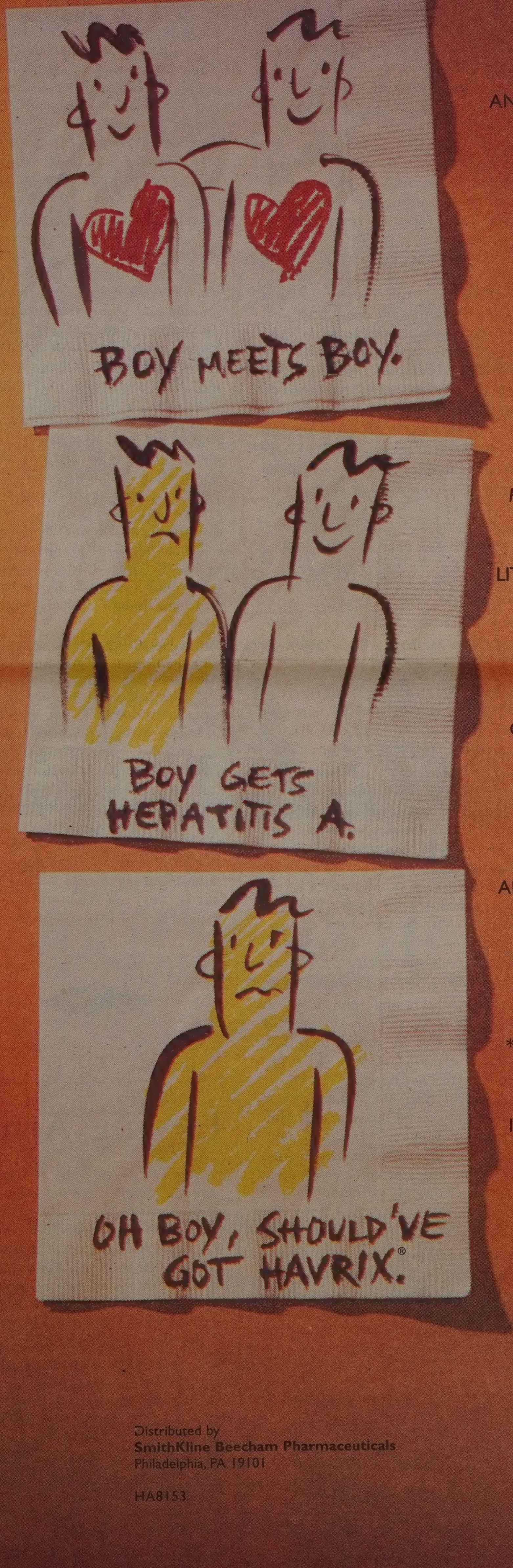
Michael Callen was named Male Artist for his posthumously double CD release *Legacy* on Significant Other Records (SOR). The Duo/Group accolades was also presented for *Legacy* which included the talents of Cris Williamson, Holly Near, Arnold McCuller, and John Bucchino in addition to Callen. These artists also were named Best Choral Group for the recording and Michael Callen gained the Best Album Award for it.



Michael Callen Singer/Songwriter was one of The Flirtations and a solo performer. He died in 1993 but his *Legacy* lives on.

Melissa Etheridge was named Female Artist for her album *Your Little Secret* on the Island Records label. David Clement took the Best Debut Artist/Duo/Group Award for his *Be More Like Me* album on Wild Monk Records. Catie Curtis received Original Out Song for songwriter and Best Out Recording presented to a performer for *Radical* from her *Truth or Lies* album on Guardian Records.

For more information about GLAMA call 800/956-5262, E-mail GLAMA@nycnet.com or visit their website at www.GLAMA.com.


BOY MEETS BOY.
BOY GETS HEPATITIS A.
OH BOY, SHOULD'VE GOT HAVRIX.®

IT'S A STORY WE'VE HEARD MANY TIMES BEFORE. GAY MEN ENGAGING IN WHAT THEY THOUGHT WAS SAFE SEX, ONLY TO CATCH HEPATITIS A THROUGH ORAL/ANAL CONTACT OR HANDLING A CONDOM. THE VIRUS RARELY KILLS, BUT IF YOU GET HEPATITIS A, VOMITING, ABDOMINAL PAIN, JAUNDICE AND DIARRHEA CAN DEBILITATE YOU FOR WEEKS. FORTUNATELY, THERE'S *HAVRIX*, THE WORLD'S FIRST VACCINE AGAINST HEPATITIS A. A SINGLE DOSE WILL PROTECT YOU FOR UP TO ONE YEAR, AND A BOOSTER DOSE SIX TO 12 MONTHS LATER WILL PROLONG PROTECTION. THE MOST COMMON SIDE EFFECTS AFTER RECEIVING *HAVRIX* ARE HEADACHE OR A LITTLE SORENESS IN YOUR ARM.* ASK YOUR DOCTOR OR CALL 1.800.200.HEPA FOR MORE INFORMATION. AND MAKE SURE YOUR STORY HAS A HAPPY ENDING.

*PLEASE SEE IMPORTANT PATIENT INFORMATION ADJACENT TO THIS AD.

Havrix®
Hepatitis A Vaccine, Inactivated

Manufactured by
SmithKline Beecham Biologicals
Rixensart, Belgium

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HA8153

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Hepatitis A Vaccine, Inactivated
Havrix®
See complete prescribing information in SmithKline Beecham Pharmaceuticals literature. The following is a brief summary.

INDICATIONS AND USAGE: *Havrix* is indicated for active immunization of persons ≥ 2 years of age against disease caused by hepatitis A virus (HAV).

CONTRAINDICATIONS: *Havrix* is contraindicated in people with known hypersensitivity to any component of the vaccine.

WARNINGS: Do not give additional injections to patients experiencing hypersensitivity reactions after a *Havrix* injection. (See CONTRAINDICATIONS.)

Hepatitis A has a relatively long incubation period. Hepatitis A vaccine may not prevent hepatitis A infection in those who have an unrecognized hepatitis A infection at the time of vaccination. Additionally, it may not prevent infection in those who do not achieve protective antibody titers (although the lowest titer needed to confer protection has not been determined).

PRECAUTIONS: As with any parenteral vaccine (1) keep epinephrine available for use in case of anaphylaxis or anaphylactoid reaction; (2) delay administration, if possible, in people with any febrile illness or active infection, except when the physician believes withholding vaccine entails the greater risk; (3) take all known precautions to prevent adverse reactions, including reviewing patients' history for hypersensitivity to this or similar vaccines.

Administer with caution to people with thrombocytopenia or a bleeding disorder, or people taking anticoagulants. Do not inject into a blood vessel. Use a separate, sterile needle or prefilled syringe for every patient. When giving concomitantly with other vaccines or IG, use separate needles and different injection sites.

As with any vaccine, if administered to immunosuppressed persons or persons receiving immunosuppressive therapy, the expected immune response may not be obtained.

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility: *Havrix* has not been evaluated for its carcinogenic potential, mutagenic potential or potential for impairment of fertility.

Pregnancy Category C: Animal reproduction studies have not been conducted with *Havrix*. It is also not known whether *Havrix* can cause fetal harm when administered to a pregnant woman or can affect reproduction capacity. Give *Havrix* to a pregnant woman only if clearly needed. It is not known whether *Havrix* is excreted in human milk. Because many drugs are excreted in human milk, use caution when administering *Havrix* to a nursing woman.

Havrix is well tolerated and highly immunogenic and effective in children.

Fully inform patients, parents or guardians of the benefits and risks of immunization with *Havrix*. For persons traveling to endemic or epidemic areas, consult current CDC advisories regarding specific locales. Travelers should take all necessary precautions to avoid contact with, or ingestion of, contaminated food or water. Duration of immunity following a complete vaccination schedule has not been established.

ADVERSE REACTIONS: *Havrix* has been generally well tolerated. As with all pharmaceuticals, however, it is possible that expanded commercial use of the vaccine could reveal rare adverse events.

The most frequently reported by volunteers in clinical trials was injection-site soreness (56% of adults; 21% of children); headache (14% of adults; less than 9% of children). Other solicited and unsolicited events are listed below:

Incidence 1% to 10% of Injections: Induration, redness, swelling; fatigue, fever (>37.5°C), malaise; anorexia, nausea.

Incidence <1% of Injections: Hematoma; pruritus, rash, urticaria; pharyngitis, other upper respiratory tract infections; abdominal pain, diarrhea, dysgeusia, vomiting; arthralgia, elevation of creatine phosphokinase, myalgia; lymphadenopathy; hypertonic episode, insomnia, photophobia, vertigo.

Additional safety data
Safety data were obtained from two additional sources in which large populations were vaccinated. In an outbreak setting in which 4,930 individuals were immunized with a single dose of either 720 EL.U. or 1440 EL.U. of *Havrix*, the vaccine was well-tolerated and no serious adverse events due to vaccination were reported. Overall, less than 10% of vaccinees reported solicited general adverse events following the vaccine. The most common solicited local adverse event was pain at the injection site, reported in 22.3% of subjects at 24 hours and decreasing to 2.4% by 72 hours.

In a field efficacy trial, 19,037 children received the 360 EL.U. dose of *Havrix*. The most commonly reported adverse events were injection-site pain (9.5%) and tenderness (8.1%), reported following first doses of *Havrix*. Other adverse events were infrequent and comparable to the control vaccine Engerix-B® (Hepatitis B Vaccine, Recombinant).

Postmarketing Reports: Rare voluntary reports of adverse events in people receiving *Havrix* since market introduction include the following: localized edema; anaphylaxis/anaphylactoid reactions, somnolence; syncope; jaundice, hepatitis; erythema multiforme, hyperhydrosis, angioedema; dyspnea; lymphadenopathy; convulsions, encephalopathy, dizziness, neuropathy, myelitis, paresthesia, Guillain-Barré syndrome, multiple sclerosis; congenital abnormality.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has established the Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS) to accept reports of suspected adverse events after the administration of any vaccine, including, but not limited to, the reporting of events required by the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986. The toll-free number for VAERS forms and information is 1-800-822-7967.

HOW SUPPLIED: 360 EL.U./0.5 mL: NDC 58160-836-01 Package of 1 single-dose vial.

720 EL.U./0.5 mL: NDC 58160-837-01 Package of 1 single-dose vial; NDC 58160-837-02 Package of 1 prefilled syringe.

1440 EL.U./mL: NDC 58160-835-01 Package of 1 single-dose vial; NDC 58160-835-02 Package of 1 prefilled syringe.

Manufactured by **SmithKline Beecham Biologicals**
Rixensart, Belgium
Distributed by **SmithKline Beecham Pharmaceuticals**
Philadelphia, PA 19101

BRS–HA:L5A

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'Be Smart About HIV'

Campaign Unveiled

Research Triangle Park, NC—An explosion of new information regarding the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), as well as a variety of promising results from recent medical research provide sound reasons for people with HIV to see their doctor about treatment of the virus. This basic message is the foundation of a multifaceted campaign designed to encourage help-seeking behavior among people with HIV.

"Be Smart About HIV" was launched this week in 12 U.S. cities from Los Angeles to New York. A variety of communications channels, including newspaper, magazine and radio advertisements, outdoor posters, an internet web site, brochures and table top displays will be used to carry the message that results being reported from recent medical research are significant enough to warrant seeing your physician to discuss initiation of treatment. New research suggests that reducing the amount of virus may help patients live longer.

Despite the advances being made in the treatment of HIV and AIDS, estimates are that the majority of people who are aware that they have the virus have not yet chosen to pursue treatment. Study results presented recently at the XI International Conference on AIDS suggest that some drug combinations have the potential to reduce the amount of HIV in the blood to levels so low it cannot be detected using currently available technology.

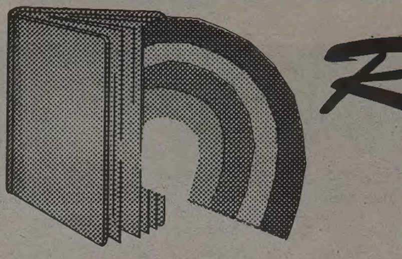
"We must get the word out to all people living with HIV that there is new hope in the form of new therapies that may significantly improve their quality of life and help them to live longer," said Christopher Portelli, Executive Director of the National Lesbian and Gay Health Association.

"Be Smart About HIV" will initially be focused on the traditionally better informed gay population in New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Miami, Chicago, Houston, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Washington, DC, Dallas, Raleigh-Durham and Boston. A second phase of the program, scheduled for early 1997, will expand to the often underserved African-American and Hispanic communities and increase the outreach to 18 cities.

"Given the recent advances in HIV/AIDS treatment, it is more important than ever that people living with the virus actively seek treatment. The 'Be Smart About HIV' campaign will help promote this vital message," said Paul Kawata, Executive Director of the National Minority AIDS Council. "The second phase of this campaign, which targets African-Americans and Latinos, is especially important as communities of color continue to be disproportionately affected by this epidemic."

Persons interested in learning more about the campaign can call 1-888-TREAT-HIV. "Be Smart About HIV" is sponsored by the National Minority AIDS Council and the National Lesbian and Gay Health Association in association with Glaxo Wellcome, Inc.

Look for Houston Voice Personals in every issue



Rainbow Reader

Hiding My Candy Is A Treat

By JONE DEVLIN

for all those who read John Berendt's *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* the name "Chablis" means more than just cheap wine. Chablis, or The Lady Chablis as she calls herself, is the irrepressible African-American Drag Queen that John Berendt met and befriended while writing his best selling novel. Both the novel and Chablis were so popular in fact that she's now had a novel all her own. *Hiding My Candy* is part biography and part Good Housekeeping as Chablis tells us her life story (from her birth as Benjamin Edward Knox to the present), then throws in recipes and beauty tips.

Chablis was born in Quincy, Florida in 1957. Even from a very young age she knew she was different. Her grandmother tolerated this difference up to a point, but when at age 9 "Benji" went to live with his mother and stepfather things changed drastically. Brutal abuse at the hands of parents who did not understand why their oldest son liked to do things like sneak off and dress in women's clothing dogged Benji until, at age fifteen, after a particularly brutal beating he ran away. At first he did what all teenagers freed from abuse situations do. He took up with the worst influence in town (in this case a local prostitute) and spent his days smoking reefer and entertaining gentlemen. He also began dressing in women's clothing on a regular basis. Eventually Benji or Miss Pee-Wee as she was now called, got bored with this going nowhere fast lifestyle, and decided she had to get away. But to where?

Enter Miss Tina DeVore, drag queen extraordinaire, who took Benji to Atlanta and a la My Fair Lady made her over into The Lady Chablis, an exciting new drag queen that took four titles in Atlanta including Miss Gay World. It was also at this time that The Lady decided to become a full time woman, albeit a woman with "candy." Naturally there were still problems. It was the seventies after all and extreme racism along with homophobia abounded, even in the gay community. Plus Chablis had also met, fallen in love with and married a young white man named Kevin, a situation which nearly caused her to lose everything, including her life, at a show she never played in Alabama. (You'll have to read the book to figure that out)!

Even more dangerous than her relationship with Kevin however, was one that The Lady embarked on shortly after their breakup. In her book she calls it a most abusive marriage. Her partner? Crystal meth. How she freed herself of that particular partnership mostly intact is truly an amazing tale. Also included within the book are stories of the different bars in and around the Atlanta area during the seventies and eighties (most of which Chablis played at one time or another), how Chablis developed the act that made her a headliner and a show stopper, and of course her meeting with John Berendt, the book writing Yankee that made her even more famous.

There are a lot of laughs here, but a lot of serious moments as well, as Chablis talks about AIDS, her life as a woman, friends she has lost (both through death and her own drug abuse) and the hard times that all performers inevitably fall on. As all of this tale is told in Chablis own inimitable, inspirational fashion you will find yourself laughing even at the most sobering tales up to and including the moment when Chablis tells us of how this year city officials wouldn't allow her to ride on a "Midnight in the Garden" float as herself during South Carolina's St. Patrick's Day parade. This after she had spent the last year and half doing public appearances promoting the book as well as bringing all kinds of money into the town as fans came from all over the country to see her do her show at a local club! But if there's any deep resentment or bitterness over this, you'll never hear it from The Lady, who has much more class than the officials of her hometown. The Lady Chablis is one of the few truly remarkable people in literature and if you haven't read *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* I suggest you go to your nearest library or bookstore and pick it up. Then, once you've been properly introduced to The Lady, run, don't walk back to that same library or bookstore and get *Hiding My Candy*. .

Jone Devlin is one of the co-hosts of Lesbian and Gay Voices, heard Thursdays at 8pm on KPFT Radio, 90.1fm .

* * *

Loving Arms Day Care Center

For the past 4 years, the "Loving Arm-y" have put together one benefit a year with all proceeds going to charity. The previous 3 years have involved touring Broadway Casts and have netted between $6,000 and $10,000 to local AIDS organizations as their designated charity for the benefits. All benefits have provided 100% of the proceeds to the charities, as all costs of the event underwritten or donated.

This year, the organization is taking a slightly different approach to the need for funding, and are hosting a CASINO NIGHT at the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza Hotel on Nov. 1, 1996 with the grand prize being a trip to Las Vegas for the high roller of the evening. As in the past, they are selling sponsorships to the event to offset any costs, and again to provide 100% of the proceeds of the event to Loving Arms Foundation. The goal is to raise between $8,000 and $10,000.

Loving Arms Foundation is one of six services of its kind in the United States. It provides free day care to children diagnosed HIV+ or with AIDS. The center also provides free transportation to and from doctors visits, schools, and home for these children which are affected with this deadly disease in an attempt to provide the children with as normal a life as possible. Loving Arms exists solely on public grants and private donations in an effort to keep as much money coming through the doors available to the children with minimal administration fees realized.

As with all charity organizations, Loving Arms Foundation has been hit especially hard this year with budget cuts in assistance providers, and the number of grants available decreasing. For further information, please contact B. Fishman (Loving Arm-y) at 849-5558, or Audrey Gassema (Loving Arms Foundation) at 526-8798.

Community Bulletin Board

Wholistic Health Expo

On Saturday, Oct. 19, *Centerpoint* celebrates their 10th Anniversary from 10am til 6pm at 7621 Westview Drive with a Wholistic Health Expo. Admission is $2. For info call 492-6077.

Little Room Downstairs

Wilde Rush is the latest production from The Little Room Downstairs on Friday & Saturday evenings, Oct. 18 through Nov. 9 at 8pm, 1108 Peden.

This world premiere production pits Oscar Wilde against Rush Limbaugh in a fictional debate that touches everything from poverty and socialism, to feminism, morality, and of course, the love that dare not speak its name. Robert Honeywell is Oscar & Tom Maples is Rush. Tickets are $10 & reservations must be made at 523-0791.

Love, Lust & Intimacy

The Aids Foundation Houston (AFH) next workshop explores *"Love, Lust, & Intimacy"* on Oct. 22 from 7-9pm at 3202 Weslayan/Annex. Will I ever find Mr. Right? What will I say? How will I react? Questions like these will be addressed. For info call AFH Hotline at 524-AIDS or toll-free 1-888-524-AIDS.

New Officers

Dignity Houston is pleased to announce it has selected new officers for the 96-97 term. Kevin Kelly will serve as the President. Mike O'Donnell was selected to serve as Vice-President. The chapter treasurer will be Mike Goertz, while Robert Geisberg will be Secretary. The three at-large board members are Mike Trancynger, Jon Bancroft and Lisa G. They will serve as officers thru Sept. 30, 1997.

Dignity Houston is an organization for Catholic gays, lesbians, bisexual and transgendered people meeting every Saturday at 7:30pm for Roman Catholic Mass at 1307 Yale in the Heights. For info call 880-2872.

Odds & Ends Sale

The *Montrose Counseling Center* is having a Parking Lot Sale, Saturday, Oct. 19 at 701 Richmond from 8am to 1pm. Proceeds will be used to provide Holiday Food Baskets for MCC clients in need. Persons interested in sponsoring a gift basket can do so by making a check payable to MCC-Holiday Gift Baskets for $15 each.

On Wednesday, Oct. 23, Lynn Waldman, LMSW-ACP will discuss "Women's Network—Grief: A Natural Cycle. Donations are accepted although the session is free. For info call 529-0037.

Young Democrats

The *Harris County Young Democrats* will host a Candidate Forum & Get Out the Vote Party on Tuesday, Oct. 22 at 6:30pm at the Moose Cafe, 1340 W. Gray. Congressman Gene Green has already confirmed his attendance. He & other candidates will speak on issues important to young people. The event is free with hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. Please bring two non-perishable food items for the Star of Hope Mission. Call 522-9631.

Gay Men's Chorus

Members & friends of the *Gay Men's Chorus of Houston* contributed $1,000 toward the current billboard campaign sponsored by Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG).

The series of billboards that recently went on display in Houston is intended to send positive messages about Lesbians & Gays to mainstream America prior to the November elections. For info call 521-SING.

Dis of Dos Lesbos

By JAVIER TAMEZ
Houston Voice/Houston

Revues are funny things. Composed, as they are, by thematically related, but otherwise stand-alone, musical or comedy sketches, revues, more than most theatrical productions, are predisposed to a wide range of quality within the same show. "Dos Lesbos," which is being presented by The Group (Theatre Workshop) at the Lovett Inn, is one such revue. In covering certain aspects of lesbian life in the 90s—harassment on the job, coming out to the parents, meeting the partner's parents, and, of course, the ever-present joys and problems with sex-writer (playwright just doesn't seem appropriate) Terry Baum offer some funny observations. But there aren't nearly enough of them, and those that are present are largely obscured by uninspired directing and flat delivery. And these shortcomings are laid bare right from the beginning.

The opening number, "I Don't Care," is a cute enough little ditty, but the two women—Kim Sevier and Sue Ulu—who comprise the cast are riding bicycles while they sing. And there just isn't room in the small space utilized as the stage. The result is truly awful; each woman has to physically stop before entering the stage area to let the other woman exit. It makes for a rough, choppy, sputtering presentation that diminishes the song's appeal. Further the staging is so awkward that it's difficult for me to understand how anyone could have imagined this as working, for the revue or the audience.

"The Job" is a passably humorous bent on what must surely be a gnawing frustration faced by those who endure bigoted, moronic remarks in the workplace.

What follows—"Coming Out to the Parents"—is an interesting collection of the title story in various theatrical manifestations and to varying degrees of success: Greek tragedy—exaggerated gestures make this physically funny, but it quickly wears thin; Restoration comedy-plaster smiles mark the comically restrained emotions of this hilarious bit; 50s sitcom-with "Leave it to Beaver" theme music backing it up, this one also starts with a laugh but also fades too soon; and a horror/thriller (I think) that reveals itself more through the raspy organ chords associated with the genre than with anything in the dialogue or the staging, not funny at all.

Next comes "Men," which lacks the acerbic tint so often present in female assessment of males, but which compensates with a song, "Jill the Ripper," that could serve as an a capella anthem for Lorena Bobbit.

After an intermission (included solely to promote the sale of refreshments), two sketches "Meeting the Parents Before" and "Meeting the Parents After," cover the pre-apprehension and the post-anger, and this leads to "Twelve Days." This song—a parody of the "12 Days of Christmas"—makes fun of the comments women might hear on a visit home.

"Misery Loves Company" is the theme song for the "Depression" piece, about which the only notable thing was the use of ukuleles (or were they toy guitars?). In any event, also not funny.

The final sketch was "Sex," in which the author attempts to pinpoint what makes a woman a lesbian. Genuinely interesting (and the potential to be fleshed out into so much more) but once again not really funny.

In what amounts to the biggest flub of the evening, the production closes to the melancholy melody of "Lesbian Seagull." The song, written by Tom Wilson Weinberg, was intended as a ballad and was based (as indicated in the program) "on a 1970s study in which scientists determined that some female seagulls form couples, build a nest together, migrate together, and live as monogamous lesbian couples." While this is all well and good, and certainly worth noting as zoological evidence of homosexuality, it does not make for the most touching of metaphors. Worse yet, with lyrics such as "a fish squirming in her bill" (hard to believe, isn't it?!), any attempts at poignancy are swallowed along with the suppressed laughter that accompanies this musical schmaltz.

Both Kim Sevier and Sue Ulu do well enough given the material and the direction. But this effort hardly constitutes a demonstration of their abilities.

Director Joe Watts has descended to a directorial nadir. It's almost as if shows are being staged for the sake of putting on a show, regardless of the material or the preparedness of the production for presentation.

"Dos Lesbos" might be funnier (on another cosmic plane), but this production is sadly inadequate.

MARY'S
1022 WESTHEIMER 713/527-9669

ROOF TOP REVUE

WESTHEIMER STREET FESTIVAL
LEE CHARDON & FRIENDS
OCT. 19 & 20 - SHOW 1PM - 6PM

FAREWELL PERFORMANCE BY LEE CHARDON

HOT MUSIC!
COLD DRINKS!
PATIO BAR OPEN!

DJ's - ROBERT & TODD

Theater LaB Houston Opens Fourth Season

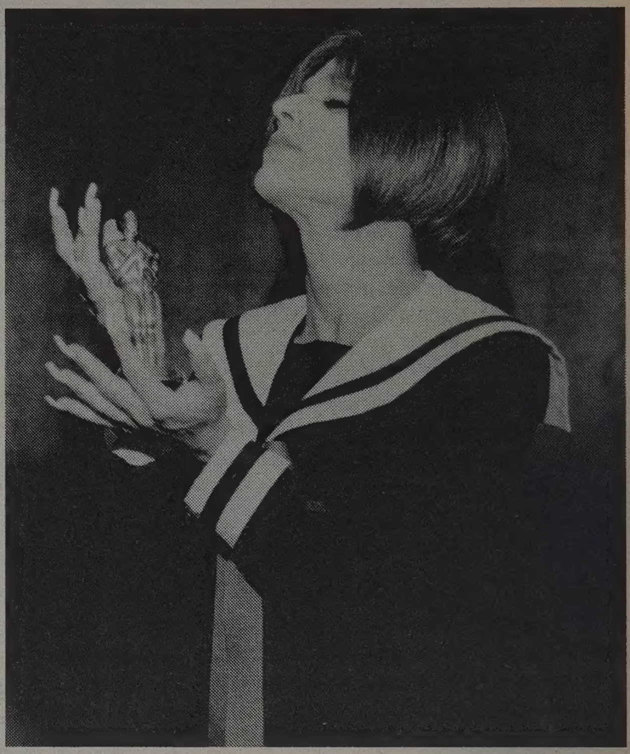
Fascinating Women

Theater LaB Houston, Houston's acclaimed small professional non-profit theater, announces its fourth season for the 1996-97 theatrical year. All productions are southwest premieres. The theater will once again present a selection of the finest contemporary theater by nationally and internationally renowned playwrights and will introduce its inaugural cabaret and children's series.

For the new season TLH has chosen the banner of *FASCINATING WOMEN* , a series of plays that look at strong, independent, memorable, and most of all, fascinating women. Mother, sister, first lady, diva, saint, nun, pop star, and aviatrix—legends all. The selection of plays will be just as fascinating, controversial and bold as those offered under the previous seasons of *Dangerous, Sin* , and *Rapture Theater* .

Opening the new season, TLH introduces its New York Cabaret with a special one week appearance of Steven Brinberg performing his critically acclaimed show, *Simply Barbra* . A one-man, all singing cabaret impersonation of Barbra Streisand, *Simply Barbra* is based out of New York's *Don't Tell Mama* . The New York *Daily News* wrote, "Brinberg vocally is amazing with his musical mimicry... his act is done with lots of fun and affection and thanks to his (Brinberg's) artful imitation, there's not much reason to rain on his charade." Piano accompanist will be Steven Jones. *Simply Barbra* will play a limited run of six performances, Wednesday Oct. 23rd-Saturday, Oct. 26th.

From its opening in April 1993, Theater LaB Houston has quickly established its identity as an innovative and exciting theatrical space in the historic First Ward district, bringing new and unique approach to theater in Houston. The theater's professionalism, flexibility of staging and intimacy have captured the attention of an enthusiastic and loyal audience, with a season subscriber base of over 270. Since TLH opened, total audience has exceeded 25,000 patrons. Previous critically acclaimed productions have included *Poor Super Man* (sponsored by The Houston Voice), *ASSASSINS* , and *My Children, My Africa!* Season tickets and additional information regarding special events are available by calling Theater LaB Houston's box office at 713/868-7516.



Steven Brinberg portrays one of the most fascinating of women, Barbra Streisand in the Theater LaB Houston Southwest Premiere of *Simply Barbra* .

◆ ◆ ◆

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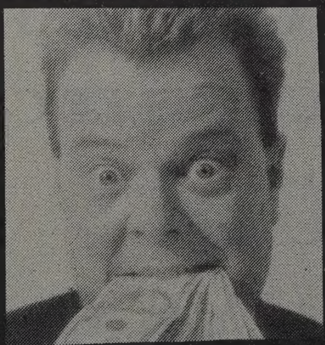

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GLAAD lines

Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation

Present Our Past

In honor of Lesbian & Gay History Month, GLAAD is encouraging two major media purveyors of history to embrace our heritage. TheHistoryNet, an extensive website devoted to history, has yet to address Lesbian & Gay History Month. "We hope that they proclaim October as Lesbian & Gay History Month, as well as highlight historical events in the lesbian and gay civil rights movement," said Loren Javier, GLAAD's Interactive Media Director. "We'd also like to see profiles of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people who have contributed to our society, culture and technology." Additionally, while the site has many links, it fails to link to the official Lesbian & Gay History Month page (http://www. glaad.org/glaad/history-month). The History Channel also has not declared October Lesbian & Gay History Month, nor have they established any special programming around it.

Please let both media outlets know that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender history is rich and diverse. Explain that Lesbian & Gay History Month is part of an important tradition recognizing communities frequently overlooked by history, not unlike Black History Month and Women's History Month. Contact: TheHistoryNet, e-mail: historynet@newmedium.com, WWW: http://www.thehistorynet.com/general/emailconnect.htm; Nicklos Davatzes, President/CEO, A&E and The History Channel, 235 East 45th St., New York, NY 10017, fax: 212.949.7147, WWW: http://www.history-channel.com/feedback/feedback.html.

The Doctor Is Out

On Oct. 7, CBS's highly acclaimed hospital drama Chicago Hope explored the budding friendship between two doctors in a frank, open and comical way. In a previous episode Dr. Alan Shutt's (Adam Arkin) found himself in an uncomfortable situation when Robert, a new male colleague, makes a pass at Alan mistakenly believing that he is Gay. In this week's episode, the two grow to be good friends as they work on a research project together. They discuss each of their respective failed marriages, their problems with relationships, and about some of Alan's problems dealing with Robert's sexual orientation. Their exchanges are often as comical as they are fraught with a sense of commonality. When Alan attempts to crack Robert's back, Robert warns him that "if you hurt me, I'll kiss you."

Homophobia in the work place is a major problem for many Gay men and Lesbians. Please let CBS know that we appreciate the warm, touching and honest way that Chicago Hope is depicting these two characters intimate, yet still professional, friendship. Contact: CBS Television Network, 7800 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90036, fax: 213.651.0285, e-mail: marketing@cbs.com.

Mazda, Lesbian Ellen Just Doesn't Feel Right

In the Oct. 7 issue of Advertising Age, Mazda Motor of America said it would pull out of any "lesbian episode" of the ABC show Ellen. According to the article, "When it comes to gay TV characters, marketers may be more scared off by the controversy surrounding them than by the actual subject matter." Linda Colleran, Senior Vice President and Media Director at Foote, Cone & Belding, which represents Mazda, said that "It's not the Ellen character—I like to see TV reflect reality—it's all the press around it" that makes the marketer skittish. Colleran said that Mazda would return when the controversy died down. According to the article, an informal survey of ad executives found that most would not flatly refuse to buy time on Ellen if the character comes out.

Please thank Advertising Age for a well-written article that looks past the hype to the true bottom line of Ellen sponsorship. On the other hand, inform Mazda that instead of being fair-weather friends, they should have the courage to hold their ground and let lesbian and gay consumers know their dollars are important. Contact: Advertising Age, 220 East 42nd St., 9th Floor, New York, NY 10017-5846, fax: 212.210.0200, e-mail: sdonaton@adage.com; George Toyama, President, Mazda Motor of America, 7755 Irvvine Center Dr., Irvvine, CA 91628, fax: 714.727.6101.

Time's Touting Outing

In an article entitled "The Baiting Game," the Oct. 14 *Time* magazine discusses the new outing resurgence by examining several Congressional races around the country. "In recent weeks some Republicans have found that the issue of sexual orientation—specifically their own—has re-entered the campaign," the story states. "Why are these episodes happening now?" Time asks. "Partly because the defeats on same-sex marriage and workplace discrimination raised bitter questions about whether closeted gay lawmakers were guilty of hypocrisy. 'If Sarah Brady owned a handgun, would you write about it?' (asks openly gay Rep. Barney Frank.)" Log Cabin Executive Director Rich Tafel comments that "the sad thing in all this is that everybody involved believed that being 'charged' with being Gay is bad." The article concludes by saying that "Republicans may have fostered that climate. Will Democrats be any better if they turn it to their advantage?"

Please commend *Time* for balanced coverage of this complicated issue and for raising the question of why many feel that being identified as gay is such a bad thing in the first place. Contact: Norman Pearlstine, Editor-In-Chief, Time, Time-Life Building, Rockefeller Center, New York, NY 10020, fax: 212.522.0323, email: letters@time.com.

GLAAD is the lesbian and gay news bureau and the only national lesbian and gay multimedia watchdog organization. GLAAD promotes fair, accurate and inclusive representation as a means of challenging all forms of discrimination based on sexual orientation or identity. Report defamation in the media by calling GLAAD's Toll-Free AlertLine! 1-800-GAY-MEDIA (1-800-429-6334) Web Site at http://www.glaad.org.

Another way to reach us!

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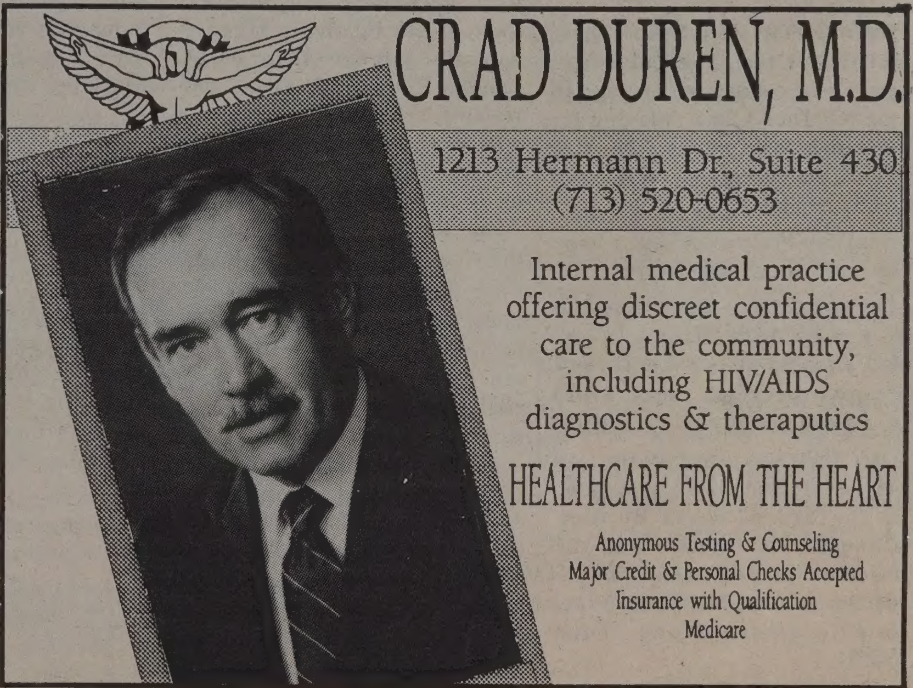

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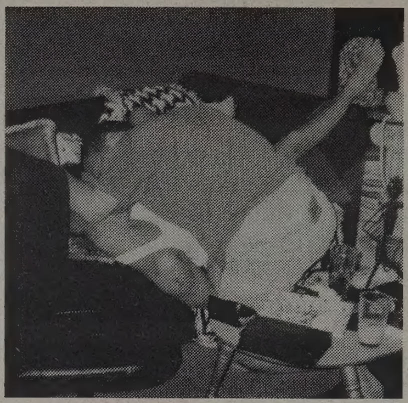
Rodent Droppings on toilet paper!

Lee Chardon does the roof of Mary's this weekend!



Brandon of CBC strikes again! Poor victim!

Dirk schmoozes with superstar June Pointer at Pacific Street.

Important Stuff

We welcome Main Street Theater to our family of advertisers. Check out their ad on page 16 for "Of Thee I Sing" playing for one night only on Oct. 26. Call 524-6706 for reservations and information.

It is Gray Party weekend! I hope to see all of you there!

The 5th annual Bear Auction hosted by Anita Mann and Lee Baber, held at the Venture-N this past weekend, raised $1143 to be donated to the Pet Patrol!

Over $600 was raised for the Colt 45's Stone Soup this past Sunday at the Brazos River Bottom. Congrats to Tommie Sue-the Bitch of the BRB; Don Dewise-the Whore of the BRB; and Owner Bill Havard-the Drunk of the BRB!

Basic Brothers is having a clearance sale on all Halloween costumes! Go soon, 'cuz they are going fast!

Check out the Slave Auction, hosted by Mr. Prime Choice Candidate Ken Claude, to benefit Stephen's House at the Venture-N this Saturday night!

Fat Man Productions present "The Authentic Life of Billy the Kid" on the stage of the Joe Frank Theater until Nov. 3. For more info, call 523-1530.

"Simply Barbara" is on the stage of Theater LaB Houston until Oct. 26. For more info, call 227-ARTS.

The Houston Dance Coalition presents "Dance Houston!" at the Cullen Performance Hall on Oct. 19. Call 227-ARTS for tickets and information.

Timeless Taffeta has tons and tons of Halloween stuff. Masks, wigs, costumes, make-up, and well, everything! Stop in and check out their one stop Halloween shopping spot!

This weekend is the Westheimer Street Festival! Mary's, naturally will have their world-famous Roof-Top Revue. The retiring (again?) Lee Chardon will highlight the performances! Chances will entertainment on both stages both days. Also, Rascal's will be having shows at 3:00, 5:00, and 7:00 pm both days.

Jewel's has high fashion for the fashion minded! For Halloween, Jewel's has tons of costume wigs from $10-$15, costumes, masks, and lots of other goodies. If you are looking for sequined gowns for the holidays, tell Jewel you saw her ad in the Houston Voice and she will take 10% off the in-stock gowns! Jewel's is located at 2404 Taft.

TV Janet will be making herself available for photos at the Westheimer Street Festival. Check out her ad on page 29.

The Texas Cowghurls will be hosting a fundraiser at the Venture-N on Nov. 8.

Mary's, naturally has after hours on Saturday nights!

Milestones

A very happy birthday to Betty at Dr. Crad Duren's office.

Happy birthdays to Paivi Lee Love, Miss Zack, Lee Baber, and Shelby St. John!

Happy birthdays to Houston Area Bears Joe A., Joe C., and John Du.

A happy belated birthday to Tommy of Chances!

A happy birthday to Wesley at Rascal's!

Rodent Droppings

My usual disclaimer is in force. This part is not fact, but mostly fiction! It is lies, gossip, and trash heard in and around the gay, lesbian, and transgendered community! WARNING! Some of this material should be rated "R" for sexual content and innuendos! If you find this kind of thing distasteful, read something else!

Harvey chased Ratrat into the bathroom last night. Ratrat took refuge on top of a jumbo pack of Charmin. Harvey is too clumsy and fat to climb up plastic wrap, so he stayed at the bottom, hitting the Charmin package into the side of the bathtub. Ratrat was holding on for dear life! It is one of those "you just gotta see it" to understand! Ratrat finally was knocked off his perch and onto the floor!

I spoke with Tequila Rose (JT) in Utah! She is doing well. For reasons beyond her control, she has had to keep her legs in the air a lot! Hugs from JT to all!

Ed (Ripcord): So, I hear you have been hanging out with Pauly Shore! You name dropper you!

Mike P. (BRB): Why did you buy Band-Aids at Sam's last week? After 2 weeks in San Francisco, which lips will you put them on?

Ray (Rascals): So how far did the dancer have to spread for you? Answer: "I always break in the new boys!"

Greg (LOBO): So, why do they call you the widow woman?

Tommy Sue (BRB): Since you have dirty knees, does that make you the "head" bartender? And, why is it every time you speak in forked tongues, you miss a day of work? Bill H. wants to know!

Doug (Rascals): I'll tumble for you! I'll tumble for you! How hard are those back stairs?

Jason (Rascals) daughter Amber Renee!

Dirk (PS): So, how was your ride in the back of the police car? And, thanks for the trip to Phobia!

Don P. (BRB): I hear the only reason you work on Saturday mornings is to be close to Art!

Chuck and Jerry (hangs everywhere): I hear that you tried to break dance at home and fell into the bathtub!

Smurf (Rascals): UPS only delivers roommates until 10:00 pm.

Narene (hangs at the BRB): Is it true you don't wear a bra when you know Jan is coming in? Woody never wears one!

Ken (Daddy of Montrose) Claude: Have you been locked out of your own place lately? Has a ladder left you in the lurch lately? So, just why did you have to spend the night on Don Dowden's sofa? And on another note, how did you lose your pants at the Ripcord, again?

John (Houston Voice): Felicia Flintstone? How did you get that name?

David (BRB): I hear Dr. Vera has prescribed "Twin Beds" to cure your headaches!

Butt Boy (Rascals): If the luggage costs $1180, there better be $1150 packed inside!

Lady B (hangs at the Outpost):And I quote: "I've had a lot of strokes, but this is better than a hair weave!"

Don D. (New at the BRB): I hear you were found laying on the pool table with a jar of lube in one hand and an umbrella in the other last Wednesday morning!

Bubbles (BRB): Your little yellow costume needs some ruffles!

Walt (Outpost): Somewhere over the Rainbow? Jennifer and you walking down what aisle?

Pat (hangs at Rascals): Why are you always so hateful towards your true friends?

Don Dowden: How was your limo ride?

Wilma (Toronto): And I quote: "If I get bored, I'll use the condom as chewing gum!"

Steve (Rascals): What do you and a Slurpee have in common?

Larry Jo (E/J's): Welcome home! Lulu says no more trips to the hospital for you!

Mr. D (hangs at Rascals): The real truth is you were not born in the Reagan era... more like JFK's!

Miss TT (Lazy J): Good luck at the Miss Gay America Pageant!

Kenny (Rascals): How do you spell "match burn?" Doug=Skid marks.

Lee Chardon (Mary's): Retiring, again!

David (Midtowne): How was your night at Hotel Reisner?

Day Leigh Edwards (Miss BRB): We were very surprised to see you looking so "manly" Saturday night. Did you forget to shave or were we role playing?

Nicole BJake: I understand that you were seen chatting with a very attractive Hispanic man. Imagine that! Do you ever stop? And what is with this degree in being a bitch?

Jeff (Evalita): Carpet burns on the elbows?

Tuna Melt: What type of rose is that you have peeking out of your bush?

Shelby St. John: We know your birthday is this week, and yes you are another year older! But is that really a reason to go with no bra, hair, or dress?

Byron Norton (Mr. Montrose): Maybe you and Shawna should do the duet "Secret Lovers!"

Stacy G. (Ms. Bacchus): What is this I hear about you picking up members of a rock band at the Outback? Talk about being in the wrong place at the wrong time!

Kitten (hangs at Chances): Yes! You do need a vibrator!

Sam (BRB): Look out June Cleaver! You were adorable!

Rodent Rooter: Thanks again for the tips! Harvey and Ratrat are waiting to meet you! They love to root around in the gutters also!

Kimberly (hangs at Chances): Dancin' by yourself?

Nancy Ford: Been doin' the "BadaBing" in Austin a lot?

Kip (Gentry): So what do you want to be when you grow up?

Randy (PS): Just how good could you be at basketball? Did you really break a nail?

Tommy (Chances): $150. for a cup of coffee? Also, I have a message to you from JD Lee Love: "Be afraid, be very afraid!"

Reno (J.R.'s): I'm never gonna tell who gave me that cute photo of you!

Bear (hangs on every barstool): Thanks for the drink! It was fun gossipin' with you!

John (Venture-N): Do "we" have a new beau?

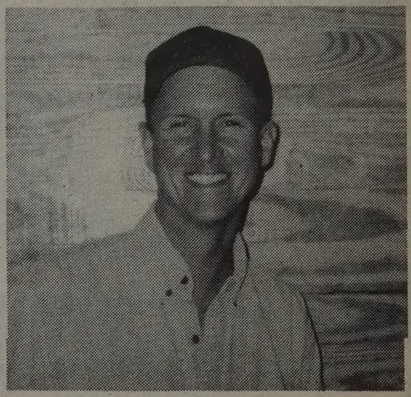
I missed a few people this week! Just wait 'til next week!

Have a safe weekend!

Cuervolyn

Reno (J.R.'s) and friend!

Fun times at E/J's.



Lady B

This Week in Sports

MSL Results

The *Montrose Softball League* (MSL) reports the results of games played on Sunday, Oct. 13. Red defeated Purple 10-4 but lost to Green 8-5. Yellow lost to Purple 23-5 and Orange 17-3, who also triumphed over Blue 10-4. Blue came close to winning out over Green, but Green won by one point with the final score 7-6.

Next week's schedule for Sunday, Oct. 20 is at 11am Green (6-0) v. Yellow (2-4); 12pm Purple (1-5) v. Orange (2-4); 1pm Orange v. Red (4-2); 2pm Purple v. Green; 3pm Yellow v. Blue (2-4) and at 4pm Red v. Blue. All games are played at Tim Hearn Field, corner of Waugh & Memorial.

There is never any experience needed to play in MSL & it is never too late to join. Call 867-3913 for info.

Rollerskating

The *Lambda Rollerskating Club* will skate with the Rainbow Wranglers this Wednesday, Oct. 23 from 8-10pm at Starlite Skating Academy, 8075 Cook Rd. Admission is $5 plus $1.50 if you need skates. All are welcome! For more info, call Keith at 933-5818, or visit http://members.aol.com/gayskate1/lambda.htm.

HOGs On Horseback

The *Houston Outdoor Group* will meet at Heather Hollow Stables, less than an hour from town on FM 249 with 150+ acres of meadows and woods. Lessons are available for just $10/hr per horse. A lunch will be served afterwards. Reservations to Heather Hollow at 440-9528.

Cycling Anyone?

The *Chain Gang Cycling Club* is hosting a Texas Renaissance Festival ride on Saturday, Oct. 26 @ 8am. Car pool with the Club and later ride to the festival. For info or to join, call 863-1860.

Billiards League

The *Independent Billiard League of Houston* (IBL) reports Week 13 standings as follows: in 1st Si Como No (Pastime); in 2nd Yo Mama's (Outpost); and in 3rd Hot Pockets (Venture-N). The top three players are Billy Lea (Outpost), Richard Chew (Mining Company), and Carlos Romero (Pastime). Congratulations to Richard Chew & Bob Miller for a break and run!!

Bowling Results

The *Montrose Monday Night Men's League* reports Division I Standings, in 1st, 2nd and 3rd places are We Go There, The Eclectic Twits and Dog Tired. In Division II, Pearlized Sisters, Thirsty Wives Club & Not So Easy Pickups occupy the top spots. High Scratch game of 268 and Handicap Game of 277 was bowled by Chris Bennett. Mace Adams bowled High Scratch Series of 704 and handicapped series of 787. Bowling is at Palace Lanes at 9pm on Monday. Call Tom at 522-9612.

The *Inner Loop Sunday Evening League* reports Macarena & Cheese in 1st, Please Don't Eat the Daisy in 2nd and We Go There Too in 3rd. High Scratch of 257 and Series of 725 was bowled by Chris Bennett and Handicap Game of 292 by David Furlong for the men. For the women Peri Cain bowled High Scratch Game of 217 and Diann Thomason series of 578. Judy Hatfield bowled High Handicap Series & Jerry Panepinto Handicapped Game. Call Tom at 522-9612. Bowling is at Palace Lanes at 7pm on Sunday.

The *Wednesday Night Mixers* reports The Rump Rangers are in 1st with Party Line and We Come When You Call in 2nd & 3rd. Men's High Scratch game of 212 & series of 602 was bowled by Jeff Charlesworth who also bowled high handicapped series. Mark Lankford bowled high handicapped game of 269. Women's High Scratch game of 179 and series of 506 was bowled by Marla Aizenshtat. Nancy Wintle bowled high handicapped game of 269 & series of 781. Call Tom at 522-9612.

The *Monday Night Women's League* bowls at 6:15pm at AMF Southway on Mondays. TAZ Club is in 1st with Marks A Lot in 2nd, Lesborados in 3rd & In The Hole 4th. Call Pat at 437-6218.

No-Tap Candlelight Doubles this Saturday at Palace Lanes at 8pm. Bring a partner or come alone. Entry fee is $11.

Traveling Bowlers

Houston bowlers were traveling again this past weekend to Dallas & Seattle. Gardy Harvey & former Houstonian Steve Stepleton placed 2nd in the Team Event & 9th in Doubles in Seattle.

The Dallas 1st Place Team Event & Team All Events was taken by Houstonians Brian Elley, John Marr, Randy Finley, and Gary Shope. In the Doubles Event, John & Brian placed 5th, with Ron Grose & Gerald Hagan taking 6th & Don Burken & Jerry Ankenbrandt placing 8th. Dwayne Pavelka placed 16th in Singles & Brian Elley placed 10th in Singles All Events. In the Optional Scratch Divisions, Kent Tillison took High Game & Series for Division A. In Division B, Gary Shope captured 1st place All Events, 2nd place High Series & 3rd Place High Game. Steve Thistle had 3rd place High Series. In Division C, Stacy Moore took 2nd place High Game & Series & 5th place All Events. Division D had Brian Elley 2nd place in All Events & High Game & 3rd in Series. Bob Roberts had 7th place All Events & 4th Place Game.

Take the Streetcar

Wanda June Smathers and Venezuela M.C.D.A.V.V. Gonzales star in "Streetcar" (photo by Jann Whaley).

Don't miss it! The annual Halloween Magic show, this year titled "A Streetcar Named Montrose. . . The Musical" will unfold on Saturday Oct. 19. The Place to be will be the Texas Medical Center Conference Center, 2151 Holcombe (aka The Grand Ballroom of the by-gone Shamrock Hotel). Included with the show are hors d'oeuvres and cocktails, and there will be a silent auction.

Tickets are $35 available through calling 713/587-6005 or purchasing at these fine community businesses: LOBO, Inklings, Basic Brothers, and the River Oaks Antique Center. "Halloween Magic" is traditionally a sell-out grab up some of those few remaining tickets. Benefits Body Positive and the Bering Community Service Foundation.

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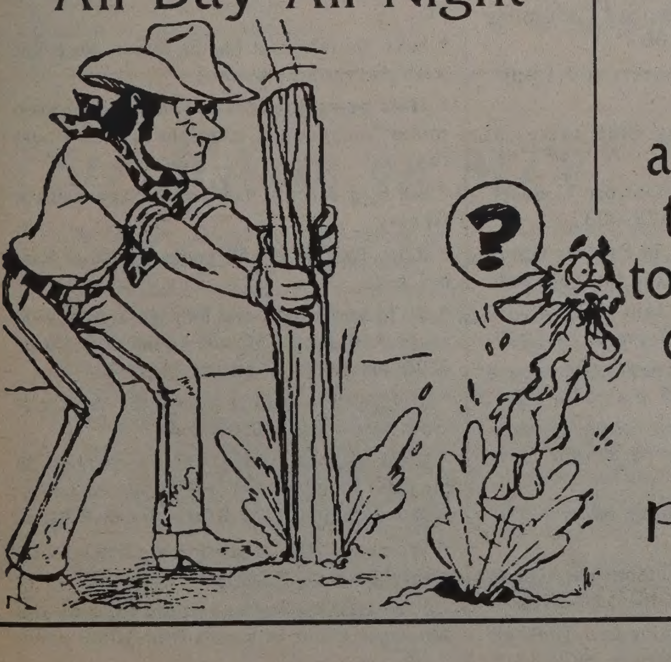

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Thurs.	Till 11pm Hamburgers 6-9 Dance Lessons 9pm

This looks like the right place. Where Country is Country. The BRB!

Community Calendar

If you would like an event listed in this section, please feel free to call 529-8490 or fax at 529-9531.

Friday, Oct. 18

* Borders Book Store Gay/Lesbian Book Club meets at the Espresso Bar at 9634 Westheimer. 782-6066.

* HIV+ Art classes at the Art League. 523-8817

* HATCH meets. 942-7002.

* 12 step program at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 pm. 529-0037.

* Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 pm. 529-0037.

* Lesbian Avengers meet at 7:00 pm at Toupee's.

* Houston Tennis Club meets at 7:15 pm. 527-1348.

* Q-Patrol meets to walk the streets at 10:30 pm. 528-SAFE.

* AIDS Mastery workshop starts. 861-6453.

* Free Spaying and Neutering Program. 522-2337.

* Drag show at Cousin's at 11:00 pm.

* Shower dancers at Midtowne Spa.

* Wayne Gray plays at the BriarPatch!

* Free hors d'oeuvres from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm; $1 Schnapps at Rascal's.

* Bad Boys dance at 6:00 pm: $2 Kamikazes at Gentry.

* $1.75 well drinks and longnecks from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm; $1.50 Vodka drinks from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm; Roof top revue all day at Mary's.

* Boyz night out at Club Incognito.

* $1.75 Well, beer, and wine at the Venture-N from noon until 9:00 pm. The Lancer's MC guest bartends starting at 9:00 pm.

* Bobbi Jo's birthday bash and annual drag show at Chances at 9:00 pm.

Saturday, Oct. 19

* Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club rides. 863-1860.

* After Hours on KPFT 12:00 am. to 3:00 am. 90.1 FM. 526-5738.

* Gulf Coast Transgender support group meets. 780-4282.

* Q-Patrol meets to walk the streets at 10:30 pm. 528-SAFE.

* Visual Art Alliance meets at 10:00 am. 583-8408.

* Drag show at Cousin's at 11:00 pm.

* Wayne Gray tickles the ivories tonight at the BriarPatch.

* Bad Boys dance at 9:00 pm; $3.50 Absolut-ly anything at Gentry.

* Drag show at the Lazy J at 10:30 pm.

* $1.75 well, beer, and wine at the Venture-N from noon until 9:00 pm.

* $1.75 well drinks and longnecks at Mary's from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm. After Hours until 4:00 am.

* After hours at the Ripcord until 4:00 am.

* Ladies' Night at Club Incognito.

* Drag shows at 3:00 pm, 5:00 pm, and 7:00 pm; $1.75 well drinks and $1.50 domestic longnecks until 8:00 pm at Rascals.

* Mad Man Justice band at 10:00 am; Ride the 300 lb. Luge all day; Miss West Fest contest at 3:00 pm; Sheila Lennon on stage at 5:00 pm; The Court's meet the candidates at 9:00 pm at Chances.

* National Leather Association: Houston guest bartends at Pacific Street at 9:00 pm.

* Dance Houston! at Cullen Performance Hall at 8:00 pm. 227-ARTS.

* Creating Families workshop by Moore and Hunt at 8:00 am. 522-4282 x10.

* Houston Bonsai Society Fall show and sale at 9:00 am at The Garden Center at Herman Park.

* Free HIV testing and counseling by the Montrose Clinic at Rich's from 10:00pm to 2:00 am.

* Wholistic Health Expo at 10:00 am. 492-6077.

* Autumn's Seasons Bondage Club discussion group meets at 10:30 am. 788-5593.

* The Garage at Midtowne Spa at 10:00 pm.

* Happy Hour 4-8 at Rascal's.

Sunday, Oct. 20

* Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club meets. 863-1860.

* The Women's Group meets at 10:45 am. 529-8571.

* FrontRunners meet at 9:00 am at the Tennis center in Memorial Park. 522-8021.

* HATCH meets. 942-7002.

* Inner Loop Sunday Bowling League. 522-9612.

* Films at the Museum of Fine Arts Houston: Cinema of Tears at 2:00 pm and Johnny 100 Pesos at 7:00 pm. 639-7300.

* Drag show at Cousin's at 11:00 pm.

* Open pool tables at the BriarPatch.

* Super Sunday show at Heaven. 11:00 pm.

* Beer Bust at the Montrose Mining Company.

* Cook-out and the Houston Area Bears Guest bartend at the Venture-N at 5:00 pm, Grin 'n Bear It contest at 8:00 pm.

* Rascal's opens at 2:00 pm for football action; shows at 3:00 pm, 5:00 pm, and 7:00 pm; $1.75 well drinks and $1.50 domestic longnecks until 8:00 pm; Mimosas $2, well drinks $1.25.

* 99¢ well Vodka juice drinks from noon until 11:00 pm: male dancers at 6:00 pm; swimsuit contest at 11:00 pm; display of Ryan Gieger's art all weekend at J.R.'s Video Bar.

* Sheila Lennon on stage at 10:00 am; Ride the 300 lb Luge all day; Crowning of Miss West Fest at 3:00 pm; Chocolate Covered Cherries Band at 6:00 pm at Chances.

* $1.75 well, beer, and wine at the Venture-N from noon until 9:00 pm.

* $1 Bud and Bud light all day and all night at E/J's.

* Super Sunday Show at Club Incognito. 11:00 pm.

* Steak night from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm: Salute to Mr. and Miss TGRA at the Brazos River Bottom at 8:00 pm.

* $1.75 Well drinks and longnecks from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm:roof top revue all day at Mary's.

* Houston Bonsai Society Fall show and sale at 1100 am at The Garden Center at Herman Park.

* Bad Boys dance at 7:00 pm; $2 KoolAids; Male Strip with Dyan Michaels at 11:00 pm at Gentry.

Monday, Oct. 21

* Free HIV Testing and counseling by the Montrose Clinic at the Brazos River Bottom. 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

* Gay Fathers/Fathers First support group. 8:00 pm. 861-6181.

* HeartSong open rehearsal at the First Unitarian Church at 7:00 pm. 947-1488.

* Calendar/Computer workshop for Pride Week. 7:00 pm. 529-1223.

* Positive Living Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 2:15 pm. 539-0037.

* Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 pm. 529-0037.

* Women and HIV/AIDS Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:15 pm. 529-0037.

* Men Survivors of Sexual Abuse Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:15 pm. 529-0037.

* Lesbian Survivors of Cancer and their care givers at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 pm. 529-0037.

* Men's HIV Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 pm. 529-0037.

* AVES sponsored free HIV testing from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm at 4125 SW Freeway, Suite 1717.

* Lambda Network meets at Toupees Coffee Bar at 7:30 pm. 284-2954.

* Houston Wrestling Club meets at 1:00 pm at Midtowne Spa.

* Male Strip contest at E/J's. 11:00 pm.

* Male dance contest at J.R.'s. 11:00 pm.

* Escape! at Pacific Street. No cover until 11:00 pm.

* Half price lockers from noon to midnight at Club Houston.

* $1.75 well, beer, and wine at the Venture-N from noon until 9:00 pm.

* Bad Boys dance at 9:00 pm; $3.50 Crown Royal at Gentry.

* Open pool tables at the BriarPatch.

* Monday night football on the big screen; free pizza; Miller Lite products for $1.50; Cuervo shots $2. Rascal's.

* $1.75 well drinks and longnecks from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm; $1.50 Well vodka drinks from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm; Don (Mr. Wonderful) Gill guest bartends from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm at Mary's.

* Drink specials all day and all night at the Brazos River Bottom.

* Half-Price night at Midtowne Spa.

Tuesday, Oct. 22

* Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous meets at 239 Westheimer. 8:00 pm. 495-8009.

* Basic Computer Skills Class at the Kolbe Project. 522-8182.

* Gay Men HIV+ Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 4:30 pm. 529-0037.

* Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 pm. 529-0037.

* Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 pm. 529-0037.

* AIDS Alliance of the Bay Area meets at 7:00 pm. 488-4492.

* Empowerment for Living meets for pot luck. 861-9149.

* PROTECT: an HIV negative support group meets at 7:00 pm. 520-7870.

* Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic at Club Body Houston. 8:00 pm. 520-2083.

* Women Survivors of Childhood Abuse at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 pm. 529-0037.

* Survivors of Loss support group meets at 8:30 pm. 778-2677.

* FrontRunners meet at 6:30 pm. 522-8021.

* Live Jazz at Borders Book Shop. 782-6066.

* Female Dancers at BerryHill II. 10:30 pm.

* Jockey shorts contest at J.R.'s. 11:00 pm.

* Executive night at Pacific Street. No cover with your personal business card.

* Bad Boys dance at Gentry at 9:00 pm; $2 Windex shots; The Imperial Court Reign XIII candidates reception and cocktail buffet at 7:00pm; "I'm Coming Out" show at 8:00 pm at Gentry.

* $1.75 well drinks and longnecks from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm; $1.50 Well vodka drinks from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm at Mary's.

* Male Strip Contest at E/J's. 11:00 pm.

* $1 domestic longnecks all day and all night at the Brazos River Bottom.

* $1.75 well drinks and $1.50 domestic longnecks at Rascals.

* Half price lockers, rooms and video rooms from noon to midnight at Club Houston.

Wednesday, Oct. 23

* Free HIV testing and counseling by the Montrose Clinic at Mary's. 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

* Houston Tennis Club meets at 10:30 pm. 537-1348.

* Houston Pride Band practices at Dignity Houston. 524-0218.

* GLOBAL meets at 4:00 pm. 743-7539.

* Women's Action Coalition meets at Toopees at 7:00 pm. 867-9581.

* Men's Network at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 pm. 529-0037.

* Houston Tennis Club meets at 7:15 pm. 537-1348.

* Lambda Rollerskating Club skates at 8:00 pm. 933-5818.

* Women's Network at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 pm. 529-0037.

* Ongoing Mixed Living in Process Group for men and women. 622-7250 for more info.

* Living with Chronic Pain at Montrose Counseling Center. 9:30 pm. 529-0037.

* Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 pm. 529-0037.

* Women's Issues Process Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 pm. 529-0037.

* HIV Survivor Support Group meets at 7:00 pm. 782-4050.

* Women's Clinic at the Montrose Clinic. 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Call 520-2000.

* AVES offers free HIV testing from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. at 4125 SW Freeway, Suite 1717.

* Lesbian/Bisexual Survivors at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 pm. 529-0037.

* Films at the Museum of Fine Arts Houston: Scream of Stone at 7:30 pm. 639-7300.

* Bad Boys dance at 7:00 pm; Male Strip Contest 11:00 pm; $1.25 Schnapps at Gentry.

* Showtunes night at J.R.'s. 10:00 pm.

* $1.50 domestic longnecks; Lil' Rascals strip contest at 11:00 pm; Free happy hour buffet at Rascals.

* Shiela Lennon's Karaoke night at Chances at 9:00 pm.

* $1.75 well, beer, and wine at the Venture-N from noon until 9:00 pm.

* Prime Meet! at Pacific Street. No cover with a pass!

* $1.75 well drinks and longnecks from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm; $1.50 Well vodka drinks from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm at Mary's.

* $1.75 domestic longnecks all day and all night at the Brazos River Bottom.

* Half-Price night and shower dancers at Midtowne Spa.

Thursday, Oct. 24

* Free HIV testing and counseling by the Montrose Clinic at the Venture-N from 4:00pm to 8:00 pm.

* Art Labs at The Art League at 1:00 pm. 225-9411

* Front Runners meet at Memorial Park at 6:30 pm. 522-8021.

* Gay Men's Chorus of Houston open rehearsal at 7:00 pm. 521-7464.

* Twentysomething meets at 7:30 pm. 315-6786.

* KPFT Lesbian and Gay Voices airs from 8:00 pm. to 10:00 pm. 866—6505.

* Ongoing gay men's Living in Process Group. 622-7250.

* Open Mike Night at Cafe Artiste. 1601 W. Main. 8:00 pm. 528-3704.

* HIV+ Men Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 1:15 pm. 529-0037.

* Relapse Prevention at Montrose Counseling Center. 2:00 pm. 529-0037.

* Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 pm. 529-0037.

* Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 pm. 529-0037.

* Meditation and Chanting Group meets at 7:00 pm. 942-0923.

* HIV Affected at CASA. 7:00 pm. 796-2272.

* Men's Therapy Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 pm. 529-0037.

* HIV Survivor Support Group meets at 2929 Unity Drive. 7:00 pm. 782—4050

* Center for the Healing of Racism. 7:30 pm. 738-RACE.

* Gay Men's Chorus of Houston meets at 7:00 pm. 521-SING.

* Burger Night at the 611 Hyde Park Pub.

* Male Dancers at BerryHill II at 10:30 pm.

* South of the Border night at E/J's at 11:00 pm.

* Star Search Gold Karaoke at J.R.'s at 10:00 pm.

* Amateur strip contest at Heaven at 11:00 pm.

* Sexx Thursdays at Pacific Street. No cover with current gym card.

* Half-price lockers, rooms, and video rooms from noon to midnight at Club Houston.

* Bad Boys dance at 9:00 pm; $3 Skyy vodka at Gentry.

* Retro Rewind; $1.50 vodka drinks at Rascal's.

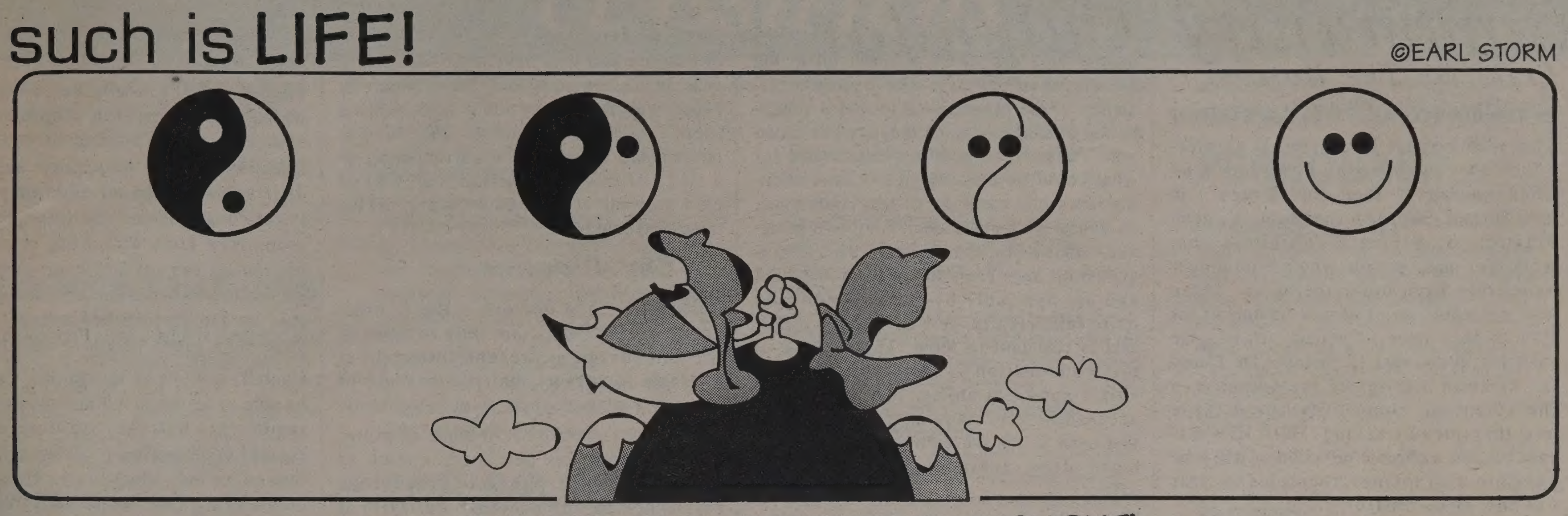
* $1.75 well drinks and longnecks from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm; $1.50 well vodka drinks from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm at Mary's.

* $1.75 well, beer, and wine at the Venture-N from noon until 9:00 pm.

* Drink specials until 11:00 pm: Burgers on the patio from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm; dance lessons at 9:00 pm at the Brazos River Bottom.

* Women's HIV Coalition's third annual conference at 9:00 am. 527-8219.

* Free HIV testing and counseling by the Montrose Clinic at Rich's from 10:00 pm to 2:00 am.



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StreetWise on MTV

Jays Janney, Program Administrator for StreetWise Houston, has announced that StreetWise programs for homeless and street youth will be focused on the program "MTV News Unfiltered" to be shown throughout the month of November. Even though the actual televised segment will be just over a minute in length, MTV will also be putting contact information and a description of StreetWise on its World Wide Web site located at HTTP;//MTV.COM/MTVNEWS/UNFILTER in November.

Ms. Janney is hoping that the national exposure will help StreetWise increase the services it can provide by bringing in more financial support.

In the past year, StreetWise has received donations from local groups Bunnies on the Bayou and the Houston Mission Church, and most recently received a $5,000 donation from the Elton John AIDS Foundation to help continue their HIV/AIDS prevention efforts with homeless youth—many of whom are Gay, Lesbian, Bi or Transgendered. StreetWise also offers a weekly support group for HIV+ youth under 21 years old. If you would like more information about StreetWise, please call (713)524-5757.

Austin Best Place to be Lesbian

Austin, Texas was named number one in *Girlfriends* magazine's "Ten Best Lesbian Places to Live" because of its new community center, over 650 gay-friendly businesses, a flourishing club/music scene, and opportunity for many outdoor activities. Tampa was number two due to a newly unified lesbian community, sunny climate, and access to the Hillsborough River. Atlanta moved up to our number three spot from last year's number nineteen. Previously gay meccas such as Aspen and Northampton ranked near the bottom this year due to high rents and low job growth.

Girlfriends ranked cities on their climate, health, economy education, housing, and job growth. The editors also factored in domestic partnership legislation, the presence of anti-discrimination or gay civil rights laws, local companies that prohibit discrimination, lesbian resources including bookstores, publications, and the absence of sodomy laws. They worked in conjunction with Lanie Dill's and Lynn West's second edition of *Great Gay & Lesbian Places to Live* (Relocation Station).

Girlfriends is committed to providing readers with intelligent, entertaining, and visually pleasing coverage of culture, politics, and sexuality—all from a critical lesbian perspective.

Reasons for Hope

Light On The Horizon

By THE BOSTON AIDS WRITER'S GROUP

The 36th Annual International Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy ("Bugs and Drugs") in New Orleans this month shed light on a combination of protease inhibitors that works for many people who are no longer benefiting from other therapies. There also is a whole series of new treatments for HIV disease some of which will become available in the next 12 months. Dr. Douglas Richman highlighted the optimism in the scientific community about these new therapies by asking "Will HIV disease become a chronic infection or will it be possible with the new therapies to clear out the virus entirely?"

For now, the goal for treating HIV disease is to reduce viral load (the amount of virus in the bloodstream) to zero or at least to levels that cannot be detected by the most precise viral load tests. Reducing viral load to undetectable levels slows progression to AIDS by stopping the virus from further damaging the immune system, and by reducing the risk of HIV becoming resistant to antiviral treatments. Researchers at the Conference presented new and effective ways to reduce viral load which included more information about antivirals in early phases of testing that appear to be effective. Some of these are new versions of drugs which are already known to work, like protease inhibitors and an antiviral similar in function to AZT. Still, others apply different strategies to combat HIV.

How To Make The Grade

Unfortunately, for many people, reducing viral load to undetectable levels has not been as easy as the drug companies have advertised. The famous triple drug combinations including protease inhibitors do work, but not for everyone. When the virus reproduces, many of the copies are not exactly the same. Some of the variations are not always affected by a particular drug. These "resistant strains" make many drugs ineffective after some time. This is especially true of drugs used alone (monotherapy), or in combinations that do not lower viral load enough to stop resistance. HIV in many people has become resistant to some or all of the available nukes (the nucleoside analogues: AZT, ddI, 3TC, ddC, and D4T). The resistance to these nukes has made success with triple combinations marginal compared to those who have never used these drugs.

These people whose HIV became resistant allowed scientists to discover the strengths and weaknesses of the early drugs. This discovery was crucial to the development of new and better treatments. These people need to find a combination of drugs to which they are not resistant. These developments accounted for what could be considered the most exciting news that came out of this conference, an update on a study combining two protease inhibitors, saquinavir and ritonavir. Both have been approved by the FDA and are available by prescription, but more importantly, few people have HIV that is resistant to them. The promise of this combination is furthered by ritonavir's apparent ability to increase the accessibility of saquinavir to the cells that need it.. In the case of saquinavir, the more drug available the better the effects.

The study of people who had never taken protease inhibitors showed that, seven out of every ten people reduced their viral loads to undetectable levels (below 200 in this study) by using this combination for twelve weeks. The people in this study had an increase of about 100 T cells, and the combination even proved easy to take as it is only required in the morning and just before bed. Not only was this combination beneficial, but also side effects common to ritonavir like nausea, vomiting and diarrhea were minimal because lower doses of ritonavir were required. The most encouraging aspect of this study, however, is that people who did not benefit from previous attempts to treat their disease were helped as much as people who had never before taken any antivirals. If the final results of this study are as good or better than this, the ritonavir+saquinavir combination could be the standard of care for people with AIDS. This combination could help to answer a question that puzzled doctors for the past two years: How do you help people whose virus has become resistant to most available treatments? (Note: There was also a presentation at the Conference which indicated that using saquinavir in combination with another protease inhibitor, indinavir (Crixivan) is an unwise choice. If you are considering trying a two protease combination be sure to discuss the decision with a doctor thoroughly familiar with these drugs.)

Researchers at the Conference also presented results of another study on the effectiveness of Hydroxyurea, an old cancer drug, coupled with ddI, another nuke. This combination reduced viral load by 90% in half of the people involved in the study. Of the people who started the trial with more than 300 T cells, half of them experienced viral load reductions to undetectable levels. However, studies of this combination report that these results are limited to people who have never used ddI before and who have more than 300 T cells. In the same study, only 5% of those who began with fewer than 300 T cells reduced their viral load to undetectable levels. (If you are interested in participating in a study of this combination, call CRI of New England at 617.566.4004 ext. 30 for more information.)

In The Pipeline

Researchers and doctors at the Conference were optimistic not only because of the encouraging presentations about available treatments, but also because of a number of antivirals in development.

One serious problem in the use of protease inhibitors has persisted, known as cross resistance. When HIV develops resistance to one protease inhibitor it may also be resistant to others to which it hasn't yet been exposed. A new protease inhibitor, called "nelfinavir," made by Agouron Pharmaceuticals looks as potent as the rest of the approved protease inhibitors, but it might have added benefits. Agouron claims that nelfinavir might not be cross resistant with the available protease inhibitors. This preliminary data only suggests that nelfinavir is not cross resistant if used by a person as their first protease inhibitor. Studies to see if it is still useful after using other protease inhibitors are going on now. Nelfinavir will likely be approved by the FDA in early 1997. If your virus seems to be resistant to other protease inhibitors then you might be eligible for Agouron's compassionate use program. Call 1-800-621-7111 for more information.

Another report from the Conference on Glaxo Wellcome's new protease inhibitor, Vertex, was also favorable. It too might not be cross resistant to any of the currently available protease inhibitors or to nelfinavir. Still other protease inhibitors are in early phases of testing and most are being designed to overcome the problem of cross resistance.

In another study using the familiar protease inhibitor Crixivan in combination with a new antiviral called DMP266 showed excellent results. DMP266 is a from a different class of drugs called NNRTI's, (Non-Nucleoside Reverse Transcriptase Inhibitors) which includes the available antivirals Nevirapine and Delavirdine. Though more is still being learned about how NNRTI's and protease inhibitors react with each other, this particular study shows that half of the people in the study got their viral load down to undetectable levels. Scientists believe that the results will improve with higher doses of Crixivan as DMP266 tends to reduce the amount of the drug in the body. (Note: It is not advisable to mix these drugs until more is known about them.)

Finally, T-20, a totally new kind of drug which will be tested in people before the end of the year. This drug stops HIV from infecting cells of the immune system in a different way than all other antivirals. It is called a "fusion" inhibitor, because it stops HIV from attaching to cells and beginning the infection process. It has proven to be effective in mice and hopes are that human testing beginning later this year will yield positive results.

Overall, it looks as though the virus might be able to be contained in most people. It is important, however, to determine the correct combination of drugs that will do this on an individual basis. This can be a challenging task, especially for people who have already taken many antivirals. These developments seem to offer new options even to those whose HIV has become resistant to the currently available treatments.

The Future

Many questions remain in the fight against HIV. Can scientists develop cheaper antiviral drugs with fewer side effects? Can the doses of antivirals be substantially reduced after viral load is reduced to undetectable levels? Can drugs be discontinued after several years of successful use and the body eliminate the virus? Clearly, the understanding of how HIV works and how the body controls it must be further developed.

While the answers to these questions have not yet been found, they are being heavily pursued and are not unattainable. These answers are essential to the progress and development of HIV treatment and the focus of medical research today.

The AIDS Writers Group consists of Robert Folan and Lou Pesce of ACT UP Boston; David Scondras, Robert Krebs, Lauren Heller, Derek Libby, and Larry Bresslour from Search For A Cure. The Review Panel consists of Dr. Cal Cohen, Research Director of CRI, New England; Dr. Ken Mayer, Director of The Brown University AIDS Program; Dr. Steven Boswell, Medical Director at The Fenway Community Health Center; Stewart Landers, Senior Consultant at John Snow Inc.; John James, Editor and Publisher of AIDS Treatment News.

The ideas expressed in this article are those of the Boston AIDS Writers Group and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Review Panel. The "Reasons for Hope" Series is an occasional feature of The Houston Voice .

Teoría Holistica HIV Retiro En Houston

El Noveno Ano AIDS Medicina Y Milagros. La teoría del bienestar total de la conferencia del HIV se llevara acabo en el hotel Renaissance de la Greenway Plaza del 7 al 10 de Nov. Este retiro nacionalmente aclamado atrae a familiares, amigosy personas dedicadas al bienestar y la salud de individuos HIV positives. El ano pasado este evento fue bien recibido en Houston. Bart Loeser de la fundación AIDS Houston dice "Es el día mas reconfortante uno pudiera pasar."

La conferencia explora el uso de la medicina tradicional Occidental y las terapias complementarias alternas proveyendo un fuerte énfasis en el cuidado total de la persona. Varias secciones plenas de actividades creativas se ofrecen para tocar, de alguna forma, el corazón y el alma. Estas secciones incluyen tratamiento del HIV, intimidad de la pareja, pena y muerte, técnicas de masaje, espiritualidad, nutrición, abuso de estupefacientes y mas.

Dentrode los oradores están: Terry Tafoya, PhD. La escritora Americana de cuentos tradicionales Sally Fisher creadora del taller de ensayo, Dominado AIDS; Marge Poscher MD, doctorada en HIV/AIDS. Cade Fields-Gardner, MS, RD, HIV especialista nutrinologo; Gregg Cassin creador del Centro San Francisco Para Vida: y Karen Williams, "Divina De La Comedia."

Los tres institutos de todo el día se efectuaran comenzando el Jueves Nov. 7, incluyendo uno llamado "Motivando Cambio En Nuestra Vida Diaria," dedicado a mujeres que viven con HIV. El instituto en Español dará a nuestra comunidad Latina información de los últimos adelantos en el tratamiento del HIV en un proceso de grupo. Para personas al cuidad de la salud y miembros de organizaciones del AIDS este instituto es llamado Cuidándose.

El precio de la conferencia es de $155.00 por los tres días incluyendo alimentos. Gente que vive con HIV son elegibles a una tarifa reducida de $55.00 Los participantes de la conferencia también son elegibles a una tarifa de hotel de solo $75.00 por noche. Hay un numero reducido de inscripciones gratuitas para personas con AIDS que están desabilitadas.

Patrocinadores de la conferencia incluyen: Fundación AIDS Houston, Cuerpo Positivo Houston, HIV Centro Para El Bienestar De Austin y El centro De Recursos Para AIDS De Dallas. Para mas información o para recibir un brochure de registro. Contacta la oficina de AIDS Medicina Y Milaqros en Bouder, CO. al 1-800-9875-9770.

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If you have moved or want more information please write to: P.O. Box 130773, Houston, TX 77219 or E-Mail Grey Party@AOL.com

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Hairstylists needed for Montrose area salon. Must be courteous, people-oriented and dependable. Please send resume with references to (713) 261-2514 (fax) or call (713) 522-7577 for more details. Ask for Lesley.

HOUSTON VOICE needs 6 people to work Thursday Oct. 24 placing inserts in the Voice. $5 per hour. Hours 11am - 4pm. Please call (713) 529-8490.

Desperately seeking doorman for Houston's #1 location Leather, Levi dance club. Call 523-0213, 10am to 2pm, Mon. - Fri.

HOUSTON'S #1 LEVI-LEATHER CRUISE BAR - THE MONTROSE MINING COMPANY- is accepting applications for honest, hardworking team players to work as bartenders, barbacks and doorstaff. Apply Mondays 12-2 p.m. with a recent photo. No phone calls. **MONTROSE MINING COMPANY, 805 Pacific, Houston**

Here's your chance! **CHANCES** is looking for bartenders, barback & waitstaff. Call 523-7217 after 2pm. Ask for Marlene.

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GENTRY is accepting applications for *door, barbacks* and *bartenders*. Please apply in person at 2303 Richmond Ave. from 2 pm to 6 pm. A recent photo is required. No telephone calls please.

Seeking energetic, honest, dependable, and hard working individuals who want the opportunity to grow with a service oriented company. Positions available include floor/desk staff and male strippers. Apply in person only. No phone calls. **MIDTOWNE SPA**, 3100 Fannin.

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Donations of Household Items Sought

The AIDS Housing Coalition Houston/AHCH will be holding the 1996 Fall Rummage-A-Rama sale on Saturday, Nov. 3, 1996 from 8am to 2pm. Hundreds of items will be offered. All proceeds benefit the TLC House emergency PWA shelter program located in Montrose. Sale will be held @ 117 Tuam Ave. (end of Fairview) @ Helena. Please help support this all volunteer, gay positive humanitarian effort.

AHCH also needs the communities support in the form of donated items to be brought in anytime between now and Nov. 3rd. Anything that is still in operable or useable condition is welcome. Typical items include TV's, radios and all kitchen appliances. Bathroom items, lamps, tables, chairs, art and other small furniture items (sorry no used mattresses or worn out couches needed). Jewelry, clocks, and antique anything welcome!

AHCH is also seeking the donation of a van or pick-up that is in good condition for program usage. IRS tax receipt available on all donations. If you don't have any items to donate please write a charitable gift check payable to AHCH. Let's end homelessness in the PWA community in Houston by working together as good neighbors!

Please call 521-1613 for Montrose area drop off instructions. And Thanks!

On Your Next Visit to Houston...

What you get at the motel on the highway & what you get at the Montrose Inn

Motel: Heterosexuals with kids fighting next door.
Montrose Inn: Gay men next door. Only gay men. Nothing but gay men.

Motel: Several miles to the gay bars.
Montrose Inn: 5 tiny blocks to the gay bars.

Motel: Drive to the gay bars & pay $5 to park, if you can find parking. Or take a $15 cab.
Montrose Inn: Walk to the gay bars. Or take a $3 cab.

Motel: Drive back from the gay bars and risk the cops making you walk the straight line. Or take a $15 cab.
Montrose Inn: Walk back from the gay bars. Or take a $3 cab.

Motel: Pay $35 to $95 a night for a room.
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Motel: Eat in their restaurant. Food for the masses. Pay plenty. $1 soft drink machine.
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Motel: The receptionist sneers at you.
Montrose Inn: The receptionist winks at you.

Motel: Washing machine? Ironing board? Hair dryer? Refrigerator? Stove? Microwave? VCR & gay movies? Are you kidding?
Montrose Inn: All of the above. Free to use.

Motel: Full size bed, everything else is plastic.
Montrose Inn: Queen size bed, hardwood floors, hardly any plastic.

Motel: Maid knocking 8 a.m., you moan but she's coming in anyway. Checkout 11 a.m.
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Be Prepared for early deadlines TBA.

GALAXY GAYZER

A HOUSTON VOICE EXCLUSIVE

HOROSCOPE FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 18 - 24, 1996

IF THIS WEEK IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: There will be help or support from an influential person who has until now remained in the background of your life. You have an abundance of energy, courage and assertiveness to take on any challenge or work towards any goal.

ARIES (March 21-April 20) A trip seems to be just what you need to relax and refocus on all other aspects of the daily grind. You may even fantasize about relocating to some far away place... and you might even go. Being in a learning phase, use what you observe to make daily changes.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 21) Joint funds are highlighted this week, and it will take some work to reach a compromise with a mate or business partner. Your gut feeling is strongly telling you that you are right, and you very well may be. Your sensitive nature will attract others to you.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21) Usually you are somewhat content on your own and independent, but there is a pervading feeling that you are missing out on something special by not being connected to someone close to you. You can accomplish more than usual when working in tandem with someone else.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23) The workplace is very active for you right now and hard work will result in a number of accomplishments. There is nothing wrong with pushing to accomplish as much as possible, but don't become overstressed, it's not healthy. A new pet could come into your life.

LEO (July 24- August 23) You are in the mood for love most of the time lately, and those amorous feelings may get you into trouble. People around you pick up on your feelings and find you attractive and interesting. You find children a lot of fun right now and may go out of your way to include a child in your life right now.

VIRGO (August 24 - September 23) Personal matters may keep you at home more than usual this week. Spending more time with your family will be beneficial to all involved. Your attitude is very relaxed and you feel less pressured by the outside world. If things are less than perfect, figure out how to make the changes.

LIBRA (September 24 - October 23) Siblings, if you have any, play an important role for you this week - you are more likely to get together with them and have some great times. You are just busier in general, and that's great for your attitude. Stay in your peak form, keep yourself healthy.

SCORPIO (October 24 - November 22) Cash flow may be of some concern right now, possibly because you have spent to freely in the last several months. You have a natural savvy for financial matters, so you will no doubt come out of this situation on top. You might consider investing more of your money so it works for you.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23 - December 21) You feel very energized now because this is your time of the year. It's time to take more chances and do more of the things that seem important to you. Plans that have been in the making are finally being realized and it gives you a positive sense of power.

CAPRICORN (December 22 - January 20) This is a quieter time of the year than usual for you. A lot of things are on your mind and now you have the time to consider them more seriously and the impact they have on your life. It's time to plan for the future and review events of the past to learn from them.

AQUARIUS (January 21 - February 19) New goals for the future are forming in your mind presently. It's time to take account and make sense of your life as a whole, and your career. Determine where you want to put your energies in the future. Joint resources may need overhauling or at least a review.

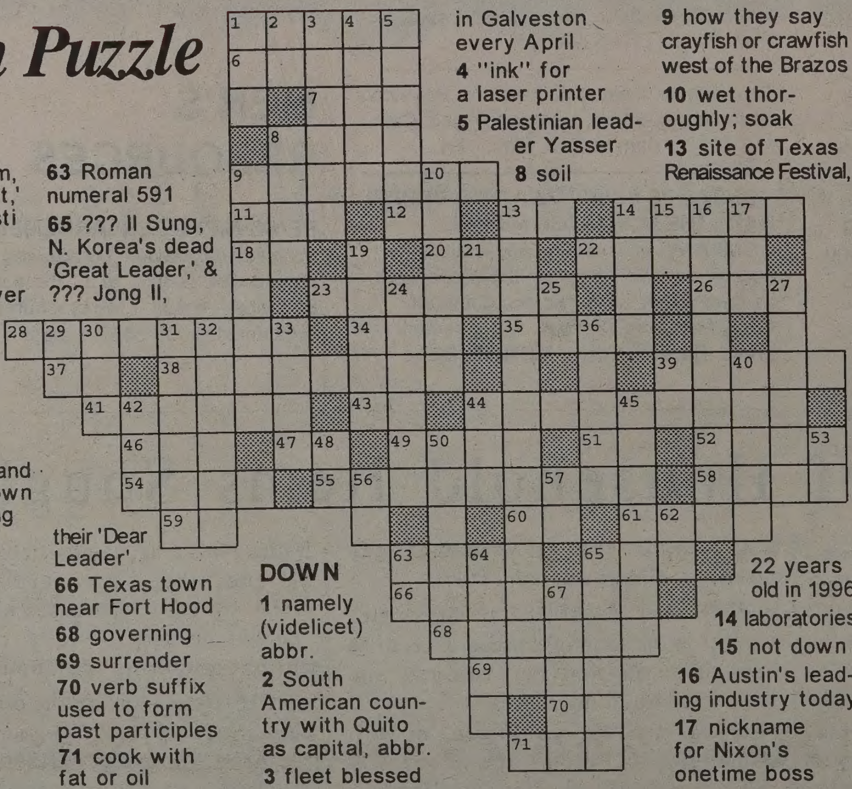
PISCES (February 20 - March 20) This is a busy period for you at work, and you feel that your career is really important and somehow defines who you are as a person. If you are presently retired or not working, gaining employment will give you peace of mind.

RECYCLE

The Great American Puzzle

TEXAS EDITION

By Henry McClurg



ACROSS

1 Roman goddess of the hearth
6 rarefied fluid in the veins of Greek gods
7 body acid
8 readily, willingly
9 companion
11 talk freely
12 26th U.S. President, soldier Roosevelt, initials ("No man is justified in doing evil on the ground of expedience.")
13 Keystone State, abbr.
14 astronaut Shannon, 6 months in space aboard the Mir
18 exist
20 snakelike fish
22 silky fiber used as padding in pillows
23 home of Blue Bell ice cream
26 cat's sound
28 flowering trees of eastern U.S.
34 vacuum abbr.
35 carps at
37 16th-17th century English playwright Shakespeare, initials ("Woe to the hand that shed this costly blood.")
38 how they say crayfish or crawdad east of the Brazos
39 large Nepalese knife
41 list of things to be done
43 sounds like 'in eye'
44 ship museum, 'The Blue Ghost,' in Corpus Christi
46 Cotton State, abbr.
47 400-mile river of S.E. China
49 never
51 direction Laredo to Tyler, abbrev.
52 paradise
54 a roster; island in W Pacific; town in Spain hosting US Navy base
55 U.S. Navy station near Corpus Christi
58 infrequent
59 '?? hee hee,' a laugh
60 Roman numeral 6
61 thing round & flat
63 Roman numeral 591
65 ??? Il Sung, N. Korea's dead 'Great Leader,' & ??? Jong Il, their 'Dear Leader'
66 Texas town near Fort Hood
68 governing
69 surrender
70 verb suffix used to form past participles
71 cook with fat or oil

DOWN

1 namely (videlicet) abbr.
2 South American country with Quito as capital, abbr.
3 fleet blessed in Galveston every April
4 "ink" for a laser printer
5 Palestinian leader Yasser
8 soil
9 how they say crayfish or crawfish west of the Brazos
10 wet thoroughly; soak
13 site of Texas Renaissance Festival, 22 years old in 1996
14 laboratories
15 not down
16 Austin's leading industry today
17 nickname for Nixon's onetime boss
19 Sam, U.S. senator that presided over Watergate hearings
21 20th century American author Hemingway, initials ("Courage is grace under pressure.")
24 relieving from stress
25 Bay State, abbr.
27 name of both the GOP and Demo candidate in Virginia's Senate race
29 19th century Irish wit Wilde, initials ("I can believe anything provided it is incredible.")
30 General Services Administration
31 medium-sized American wildcat
32 baroque
33 influence
36 pulverize by friction
39 1000 grams, abbr.
40 U.S. photo company
42 long-bodied fish
44 Texas county with Giddings as seat; Confederate general Robert E.
45 requiring
48 5th & 3rd vowels of the alphabet
50 remedy for ills
53 direction Waco to Tyler, abbrev.
56 slang for no
57 Roman numeral 2
62 I am, contraction
63 abbr. for dark, deck & dock
64 hen's sound
65 Texas county with Sarita as seat; spelled different but sounds same as Pres. JFK
67 northern sea duck

Solution elsewhere this issue

c.1996 GULF FEATURES, PUZZLE TX201

Guest Commentary

The Reason To Vote

By RAY HILL

It has become cliché to warn of the coming of the Nazis, So often is it done that those making the claim are usually discredited. It is however important to remember the history of 1930's German politics and watch for the repeat of the signs that should have warned those who ultimately lost their freedom and many of their lives.

It started with pictures. "Good and decent Germans" were shocked by photographs, movies and art depicting nudity and sex. Artists, the Bauhouse bunch and a few liberals were the only defenders of the offensive material but they burned it anyway. They also kept a list of the defenders who would pay a high price later. To make sure that the process went smoothly the censorship supporters carefully selected the courts where the cases would be considered and salted the jury panels to get the desired verdicts. After the pictures, the fires that lit up the night were fueled by pamphlets from Jehovah's Witnesses, Pentecostals and of course Magnus Hershfield's library of gay and lesbian material. When the books ran short, they began burning people.

Last week, for the first time in over a decade, a young video store clerk was convicted in a Harris County courtroom for displaying with the intent to sell a heterosexual adult video tape and a gay male magazine. The last times such trials were held here were the three trials of "Deep Throat" many years ago and an attempt to prosecute the projectionist at the River Oaks Theater for showing an Italian art film but those prosecutions were unsuccessful. In this recent case, the judge granted the clerk probation after a very hostile jury found the Vietnamese man guilty. The effect on his immigration status has yet to be determined. That is another battle for another day.

The jury appeared to be salted. Several members of the panel were very and openly prejudiced against adult material and gay people, but assured the court over and over again that they could consider the evidence and a true and impartial verdict render. They appeared to be trained on the correct wording to prevent being struck for "cause." The prosecutor, Missy Medary and her assistant openly ridiculed the defense witnesses and referred to gay people as perverts and sexually dysfunctional. She objected to any testimony from gay witnesses about the book on trial. AIDS Foundation Education Director Bart Loeser deserves your thanks for helping the defense. Although there are several bases for an appeal of this case, it will not happen. The defendant is too frightened to pursue the matter any further and there is no money to do so.

There *is* something that you can do to help the situation: VOTE! In the general election, Nov. 5, 1996. Several candidates that will play a future role in these cases are on the ballot. In the race for the Sheriff of Harris County, the slick well-funded politician you see on the big billboards on the freeway is not a friend of the First Amendment. He allows fundamentalist vigilante, Ed Christiansen to virtually supervise deputy sheriffs in the field. The abuse of Gay men, Lesbians and People with AIDS in Harris County Jail is well documented and has continued for years under the incumbent candidate's supervision. You must vote for Bruce Marquis for Sheriff of Harris County. You must tell all your friends, relatives and work mates of the importance of replacing the sheriff in this election.

Current Houston Police Chief Sam Nuchia is running as a Republican for an appellate court bench. "Sandbox Sam" as former Police Chief Pappy Bond used to call him has no commitment to the truth of any of the provisions of the United States Constitution nor that of Texas. Sam Nuchia is a clear danger to all of the freedoms that adults think they should enjoy. Unfortunately District Attorney John B. Holmes does not have an opponent, but do not vote for him anyway. He has long been hostile toward members of the gay community and the freedoms most of us treasure.

The most educated ballot you can cast is to follow the endorsements of Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus PAC. That organization has carefully screened all those interested in your vote and selected the most deserving of your support. They turned down others. The process is open and democratic and I would encourage you to join and participate in the process for the next election. If the process of securing a HGLPC endorsement card is too complicated for you, I suggest you vote a straight (on pun intended) Democratic ballot. Your freedoms have more friends on the Democratic ticket than on the Republican this year. However, some of those on the ballot will have to be voted for separately since the redistricting done at the hands of Republican judges has complicated the matter. If the Log Cabineers can get control of that party out of the religious righteous hands, there may be hope in a vote for candidates in both parties.

Opinions expressed in Guest Commentary are those of the individual writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Houston Voice, its publisher or staff .

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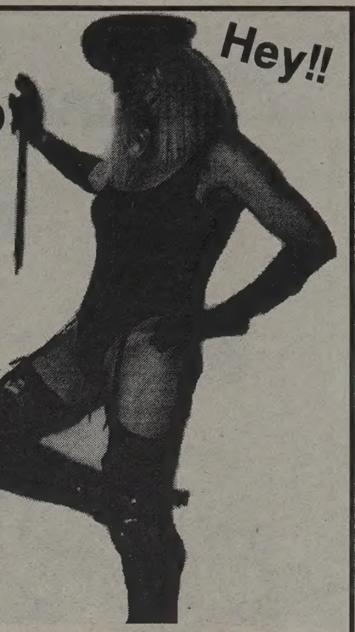
Houston's Exhibitionist

TV Janet



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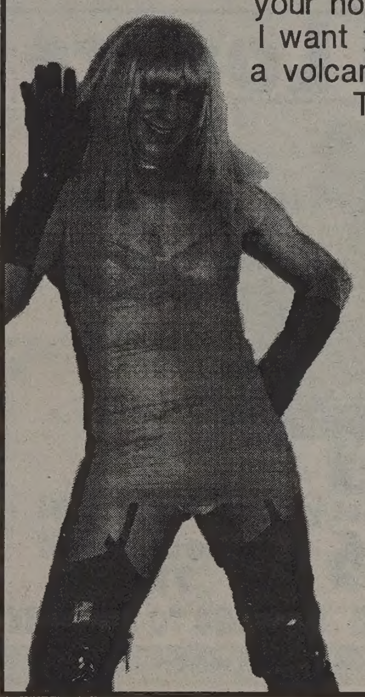

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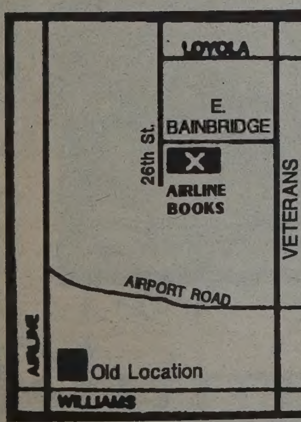

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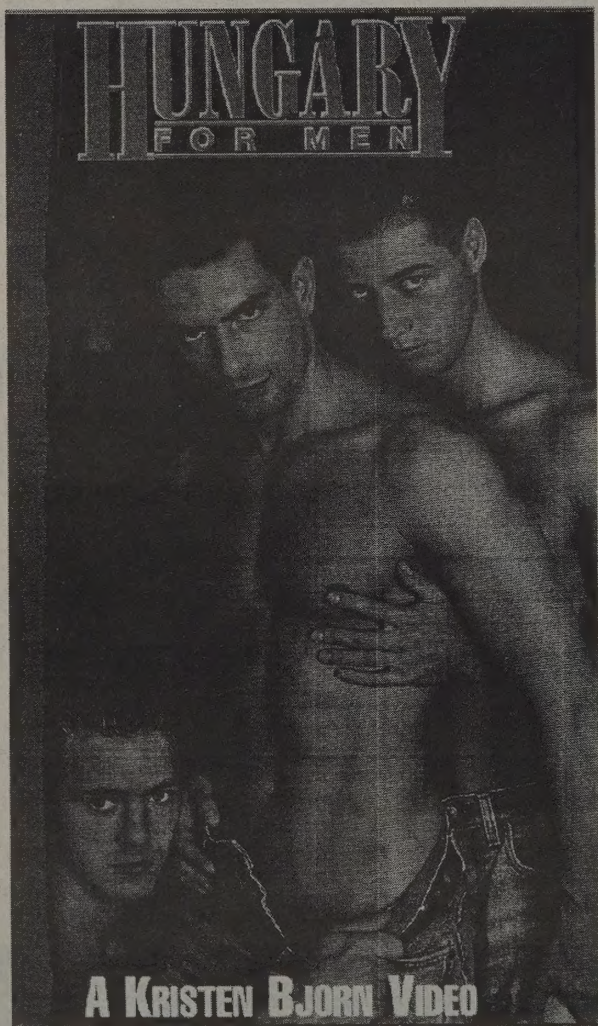

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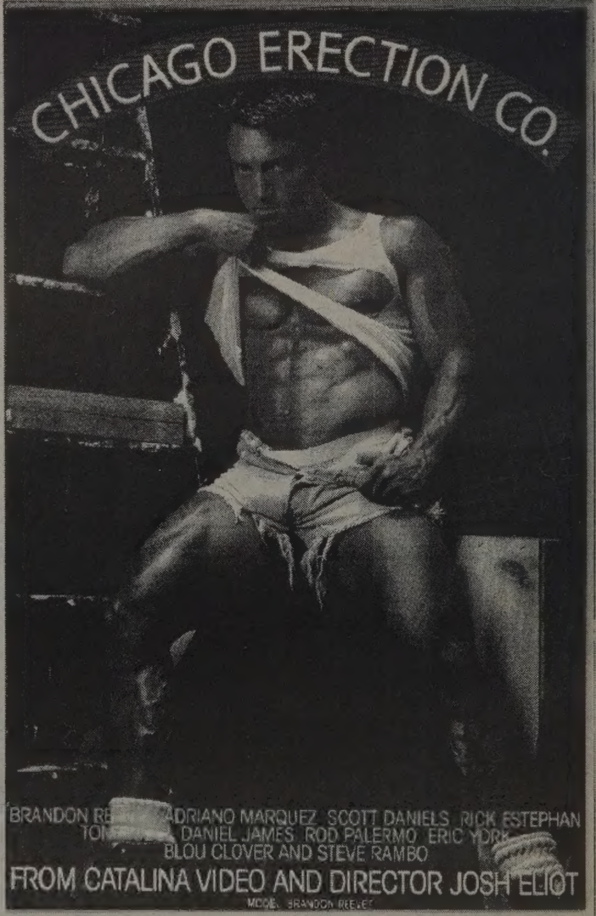

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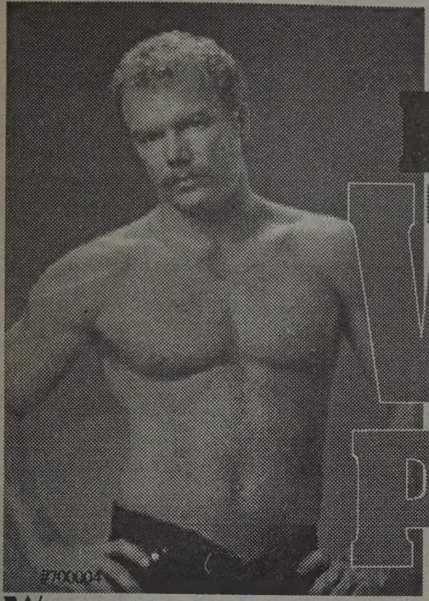

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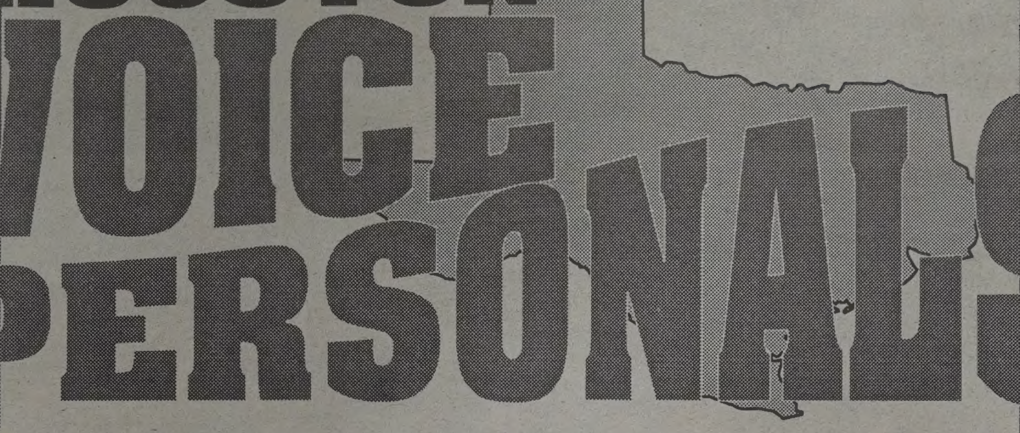


Women SEEKING Women

SWF Late 40's. Looking for a White female to help me come out. I like fishing, hunting, dancing & boating. Give me a call. Call Ext. **5237**

SWF 30, 5'3", blonde hair, blue eyes. Looking for a female, between 28-40, who is a soft butch. Wanting to date or hang-out. Like going to movies, boating, fishing, etc. I'm drug-free, alcohol-free & a non-smoker. Call Ext. **5215**

SWF 43, non-smoker. Enjoy cooking, the mall & parks. Looking for love. Should be interesting & White or biracial. Call Ext. **5208**

SWF 5'7", 130 lbs., blonde hair, blue eyes, 20. Looking for a beautiful, feminine woman who is preferably the same as me. Wanting to share life. should like going to the beach, the movies & anywhere our hearts desire. I'm very attractive, so you must be also. No jokes or running around. Call Ext. **5207**

SF Looking for a feminine Black female to have a relationship with. I would like for her to be gay, height/weight proportionate & in her mid-40's. I'm available for a long-term relationship & friendship. Please call. Call Ext. **5197**

SBF 45, 6'. Looking for companionship & romance. I like sex. I'd like to meet some interesting people. I like music & I live on the west side of town. Looking for a woman, no butch. Call Ext. **5194**

SWF My hobbies are playing pool, shooting darts, dancing & clubbing. Looking for a female in the age group of 25-40. I'm 190 lbs., 5'1" & a security guard. Call Ext. **5173**

SBF I'm a 21-year-old, horny, Black female. If you want to know more, call & leave me a message. Call Ext. **5164**

SWF I'm 40. I'm looking for someone who is butch & romantic. I'd like to make a friend or more. Call Ext. **5114**

SWF I'm 5'3", with blonde hair & brown eyes. I'm a professional in the health care field. I enjoy the beach, the woods, the theater, movies & different restaurants. I'm a soft butch. I'd like to meet some new friends. I enjoy the company of a feminine woman. I'm drug-free, alcohol-free & smoke-free. Leave a message. Call Ext. **5119**

SWF 33, 5'3", 135 lbs. Looking for a single White female, soft butch or fem to hang out with or date. I like to dancing, theaters & going to antique stores. Call Ext. **5169**

SWF Late 40's, 160 lbs., 5'8", green eyes, gray & brown hair. Seeking a relationship with a single gay female who is height/weight proportionate. Race is not important for companionship, friendship & possible romance. I'd like to meet a non-smoker. I'm considered soft butch. I'd like to meet a very feminine female. Call Ext. **5162**

SF If you like to be wined & dined, I'm the one. I'm cute, with a wonderful personality. Check me out. Desiring a sincere, honest & intelligent female. Call Ext. **5161**

SF 44, 5'1", 120 lbs. I love animals, gardening, reading & trying new things. I'd like to meet some women, 30-45, in the Houston area, for friendship, hanging out & a possible long-term relationship. No smokers, drugs or heavy drinkers. Call Ext. **5138**

SF I'm sexy, 21, 5'6" & 152 lbs. I'm bi curious & in search of a sexy, bisexual female of any race. She should be 120-170 lbs, big-breasted & very elegant. Call Ext. **5117**

SF Do you like dumpster diving, junking, camping or biking? I'm gainfully employed & looking for the same. She should be 35-50 & a non-smoker. No drugs, please. Call Ext. **5108**

Men SEEKING Men

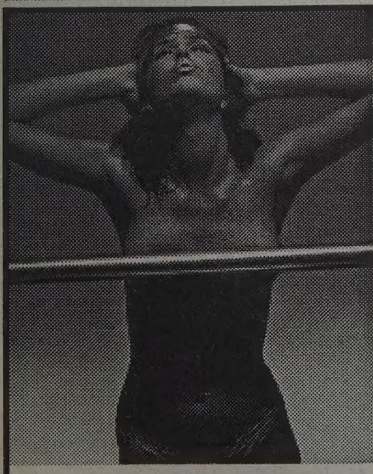
SWM 44, 5'9", 165 lbs. I'm a bottom, with brown hair & brown eyes. I'm clean-shaven, with short hair. I'm straight-acting & discreet. I enjoy giving blow jobs & receiving anal action. Looking for a White male who is a top man. Someone who is taller than me. Must be muscular, with above-average endowment. Smokers & light drinkers are okay. Call Ext. **5244**

SBM Handsome, 26, new to Texas. I hear things grow big in Texas. I'm very straight-acting & looking. In search of a 20-30-year-old who is straight-acting & appearing. Race is unimportant. Must be in shape. Call Ext. **5242**

SWM Bi, 20, 6', brown hair, hazel eyes. Interested in other gay White males in my area who like to have fun indoors & out. Must have a sense of humor & not be afraid of what they want. If you are the one, leave a message. Call Ext. **5236**

SWM 31, muscular, tan, smooth, 156 lbs. Like to meet a man who is stockier than I am. Not looking for a chubby guy. Would like to meet a top. If I sound attractive, leave a message. Call Ext. **5175**

SM I'm 50 years old, straight-acting & straight-talking. I'm looking for a professional, sincere & normal person who is 38-50. If you are this person, straight-acting & straight-talking, please call. Call Ext. **5253**



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SWM 29, 6', 160 lbs., blonde hair, blue eyes, smooth chest, tan body. I'm a construction worker from Louisiana. Looking for a gay, White or Hispanic male to show me around, in more ways than one. Friends first, possibly more. No games. No chubbies or above. If you are 21-35, a brunette & 5'4" or taller, call me. I will bring you there. Call Ext. **5238**

SWM 50, 5'9", slim build, very good shape. Looking for Afro-American male who is over 30 & has the same build. Give me a call sometime. Call Ext. **5233**

SWM Brown hair, very blue eyes, 5'9", 180 lbs., very muscular, 34. Looking for a very sensuous, feminine TV or TS. Let's have a really good time & see where it goes. Call Ext. **5232**

SWM 27, 6'3", 195 lbs., in very good shape. Looking for a gay White man who is 27 or older, tall & masculine, to have fun with. Call Ext. **5231**

SBM 22, 5'11", 143 lbs. In search of a single White male, 18-30, who is pretty masculine, handsome & not into games. Call Ext. **5229**

I'm a **married man**, 40's, 5'9", 165 lbs., clean, discreet & HIV-. Looking for sexual buddies who are the same & want to go out & have fun. Call Ext. **5228**

White male, 38, blondehair, blue eyes, athletic. I'm wealthy, married & bored. You must be young, hot & a little wild. I'm a healthy, imaginative top. Call Ext. **5227**

SM I'd like to meet a big, aggressive man who is HIV+ & would like to go at it like rabbits. Call Ext. **5156**

SWM 37, dark olive complexion, very muscular, husky, 168 lbs. Looking for a guy who is larger than myself, very masculine & enjoys being a top. I would like to talk to you in person, if this fits your description. Call Ext. **5201**

SM 32, Caucasian, very muscular, husky, smooth build, nice tan, greenish eyes, medium-to-short dark brown hair, nice tits, good-looking arms. Looking for a guy who will be a top man. If you're a daddy that's cool, please call. Looking for a guy who is larger & taller than myself who likes to be aggressive & have a lot of fun. Call Ext. **5190**

SWM 40, 5'11", 230 lbs., football player build, professional, HIV+, excellent health. Looking for someone 30-50, for friendship & a possible relationship. Enjoy traveling, the theater, cooking & quiet evenings at home. Prefer a non-smoker, non-drug user who can enjoy life to the fullest. Call Ext. **5223**

SWM 37, 5'8", 165 lbs., muscular, smooth build, nice-looking, short dark brown hair, bottom. Would like to meet a man who is my age or older. Should be mature, fun, good-looking, well-built & have body and facial hair. I like tops. Prefer someone over 5'11" & over 190 lbs. If this is you, leave a message. Call Ext. **5123**

SM 5'11", 190 lbs., goatee, blue eyes, salt 'n pepper hair, hairy body. Like to have fun with friends. Interested in Hispanics. Leave a message. Call Ext. **5219**

SHM 5'7", 170 lbs. Looking for Black males, 23-35, who want to have fun. Give me a call. Call Ext. **5218**

SBM Well-hung. Looking for someone to have a good time with. Call Ext. **5216**

SWM 6'1", green eyes, mustache, goatee, 39, tall, smooth body. I'd like to meet White or Hispanic guys. Give me a call. Call Ext. **5221**

#5178 ~ Would like to get in contact with you. Call my box. Call Ext. **5204**

SWM Gay, 41, 5'5", green eyes, reddish-blonde hair. Enjoy quiet evenings at home, movies, rock 'n roll music & playing board games on occasion. Looking for a White or Hispanic male to spend some time with. Call Ext. **5220**

SM I'm a cross-dressing transvestite. Looking for other transvestites who enjoy conversations, getting together, being sisters & having girl talk. I enjoy dressing up, going out, having drinks & pajama parties. Looking for a sister or close friend. Call Ext. **5203**

SWM 29, 6'2", nice-looking. I have long hair. I enjoy alternative music. In search of a Hispanic male, 18-29 who likes the same things. Call Ext. **5131**

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SWM 50, 6', 190 lbs., brown eyes, brown hair. I'm HIV+ & a top daddy only. I prefer a single White male who is over 40 & less than 5'10". Must be a non-smoker. No drugs or femmes. Seeking someone who enjoys quiet life, movies, theaters & sci-fi. Call Ext. **5200**

SM 6'2", 190 lbs. Looking for football player build type of guys who are under 40. Call me soon. Call Ext. **5196**

Gay **male**, 23, 6'1", 172 lbs., dark hair, dark eyes, well-toned, smooth. Looking for bodybuilders to have good times with. I'll call you back. Call Ext. **5195**

SM 46, 6', 280 lbs., graying hair. Seeking a gay White, Asian or Hispanic male, 25-50, who is drug & disease-free. He should be slim-to-medium-built, with fuzzy legs. I enjoy friends, music & honesty. I'm compassionate & affectionate. Call Ext. **5192**

SM Asian. In search of a Married White cop who needs to relieve the stress of work & family life. If you want some mid-day encounters, give me a call. Call Ext. **5189**

SWM 41, 6', 190 lbs. Looking for a top daddy who is 40-50, to take care of. Also looking for a top cowboy to ride me all night & then hold me. Must be open-minded, with above-average equipment. Willing to wear collar for the right daddy. Call Ext. **5163**

SWM 60, 5'8", 290 lbs., brown hair, blue eyes. I'm a bottom. Looking for guys in their 20's or 40's. Race is not important. Honesty & sincerity are prime factors. Let's share respect, love & an active physical relationship. I enjoy quiet times at home, dancing, traveling, the beach, dining in, dining out & the company of an affectionate friend. Call Ext. **5187**

SHM 34, attractive, bottom. Looking for masculine guys for friendship, romance or simple encounters. I like guys who are taller than 5'7". Race is not important. Positive attitude is a plus. I'm discreet & friendly. Please be over the age of 25 & confident of your own needs. Call Ext. **5143**

SWM 34, 6'1", 275 lbs., brown hair, brown eyes. I own my own business. I enjoy movies, dining in, dining out & intimacy. I have a lot of love to give. Looking for someone to love & get to know. Possible long-term relationship. Call Ext. **5186**

SWM Attractive, 38, HIV+, long brown hair, brown eyes, mustache & beard. I'm straight-acting & appearing. I like to enjoy life, concerts, movies, traveling & good friends. I'm retired, healthy & financially secure. Looking for that special friend who is also straight-acting & appearing, with similar interests. Looking for someone who wants to get out & enjoy life. Call Ext. **5178**

SM 6'1", 200 lbs., brown hair, brown eyes, Cuban/French. Interested in guys who are versatile & 20-30. Race is not important. Looking for someone to really have a good time with. Sex would be great! Let's get good & nasty. Call Ext. **5177**

SWM I'm 5'9", 130 lbs. & masculine. Looking for a Black brother who is the same. Someone who is 18-28, self-assured, masculine & not into games. Call Ext. **5094**

SM 35, 5'10", 175 lbs., blue-gray eyes, dark brown hair, goatee. Considered very attractive & well-endowed, with an athletic build. Gentleman, I'm only looking for this & the description must be precise. You're handsome, under 35, muscular, with a small waist & 10" or more. Call Ext. **5172**

SM 31, blonde hair, blue eyes. Looking for a good time. Call me. Call Ext. **5133**

SM Looking for someone for drinks & walks on the beach. Someone who is single, Black & manly to hang out & have a good time with. Call Ext. **5171**

SWM 5'7", 195 lbs., 45, furry, Italian, brown hair, attractive, easygoing, romantic. Enjoy the quiet life, movies, dining, entertaining & being a homebody. Looking for someone to develop a special friendship & long-term relationship with. If you're my ideal guy you'll be 35-40, able to support yourself & enjoy being a bottom. Blonde hair & blue eyes are a huge plus! Give me a call. Call Ext. **5170**

SWM 38, 6'2", 180 lbs., salt-and-pepper hair, mustache, goatee. I have a smooth body & I'm in good shape. I'm HIV+. Looking for a Hispanic top who is HIV+ & interested in trying to develop a relationship. Call Ext. **5135**

SWM 40 & a lively 270 lbs. I have a goatee & love to disco down. Looking for a dance partner for disco night. No strings attached. Why sit & watch others dance, when you can boogie-down? Call Ext. **5168**

SHM Looking for a 30-something White or Hispanic male to explore possibilities with. Call Ext. **5166**

SHM 32, thin. Seeking a gay White or Hispanic male who is 32 or older. Seeking a lifemate. Serious replies only. No games. I don't drink or smoke. I need sincerity & stability. Call Ext. **5160**

SBM 27. Seeking other males who want to have fun. Give me a call. Call Ext. **5159**

SBM 27. Seeking other Black males. I'd like to meet a top. I enjoy swimming, bowling, reading & having fun. I'd prefer to meet someone 20-30. Call Ext. **5158**

SWM I'm a chubby nudist in search of other chubby nudists. I'm 38, 5'7" & 228 lbs., with strawberry-blonde hair & blue eyes. Race is not important. Call Ext. **5157**

SWM 5'11", 155 lbs., blonde hair, bluish-green eyes. Seeking Hispanic males 18-35. I enjoy going to the beach & hanging out with friends. Call Ext. **5155**

SBM In search of other masculine Black males who are 19-45. Seeking someone who is well-endowed & masculine. Call Ext. **5154**

SWM I'm a certified sailing skipper. I lost my captain to the North Carolina waters. Looking for a captain with a crew. I'm also interested in forming a gay sailing club. Call Ext. **5149**

SHM 5'8", 175 lbs. I have dimples & a pretty smile. Looking for someone who has a good personality. Looks are not important. Call Ext. **5141**

SM I'm 27, 5'7", 155 lbs. & from Spain. I have brown hair & brown eyes. I'm looking for friends. I'd like to meet a blonde guy who is under 30. I'd prefer to meet a bottom. Must be straight-acting. Call Ext. **5113**

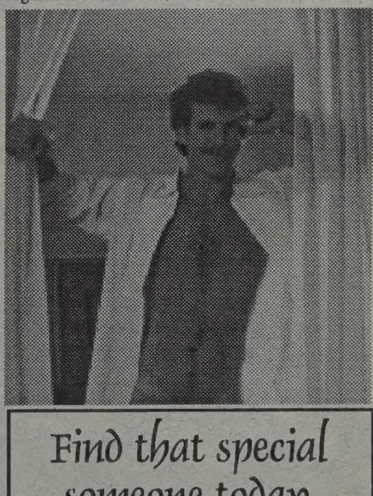
SWM Late 30's, cute. Looking to meet an athletic Black guy who knows what he wants. Call me for more information. Call Ext. **5145**

SAM 21, 5'6", 135 lbs. I'm very cute. I enjoy movies, dinner & occasionally going to bars. Looking for a gay White male, between 22-28, who is handsome. Call Ext. **5140**

SWM 39, dark hair, blue eyes, 5'6", 170 lbs., hairy chest. I'm romantic, loyal, sincere & gentle, yet strong. I'm outgoing, with a quiet side. I love music, art & life in general. I'm HIV- & seeking a younger gay male who is Asian, Hispanic or White. Looking for fun & a relationship. Call Ext. **5137**

SBM I'm 26. Race is not important to me if it is not a problem to you. Give me a call if you are interested. Call Ext. **5087**

SBM I'm a professional. I'm 36, 5'11" & 165 lbs. I'm looking for someone to spend some time with. I enjoy movies, listening to music, cooking & quiet nights at home. Call Ext. **5124**



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HOUSTON
VOICE
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Majority of HGLPC endorsements fared well Tuesday

Boney, Gray In District D Runoff

Five of the eight candidates endorsed by the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus coasted to easy victories in Tuesday's dismally ill-attended city election, with one of the remaining three endorsees finishing first in a crowded race and facing a December runoff.

Two candidates endorsed by the group were defeated: certified public accountant Mark D. Lee in the race for city controller and attorney Chris Bell in the race for city council At-Large Position 3. Both Lee and Bell had reportedly been on the receiving end of gay-baiting tactics by opponents at some point during the atypical campaign, in which several races had no incumbent due to recently adopted term limits. The election was marked by a record low turnout city wide.

In the Position 3 race, conservative businessperson and former probation officer Orlando Sanchez and real estate broker David Ballard, who inched out Bell by a narrow margin, will face each other in the runoff.

Lloyd Kelley, a one-term Houston city council member considered closely allied with Mayor Bob Lanier, won the controller's race, claiming 53 percent of the vote to defeat Lee and R. Garry Palmer.

In District D, which includes Montrose, long time Houston activist Jew Don Boney and Municipal Judge Saundria Chase Gray will face off in a runoff election that is expected to be scheduled in mid-December. Boney, well-known in Houston's black community as a fiery civil rights advocate and sometime controversial agitator, led the pack candidates in the diverse district, finishing with about 40 percent of the vote. Gray, a 33-year old attorney/municipal judge who carried the support of influential Houston business leaders in the race, finished second with about 33 percent. The diverse district includes a probable majority of the city's gay and lesbian voters, and its voting population is about 58 percent African-American.

Maine anti-gay initiative defeated

FROM WIRE REPORTS

(PORTLAND, Maine)—Maine voters defeated an anti-gay ballot measure Tuesday in the first test of such an initiative in an eastern state.

Supporters of the initiative conceded defeat with 75 percent of precincts counted and a media vote tally showing opponents leading 53 percent to 47 percent.

Two conservative groups had backed the proposed measure to overturn local ordinances extending civil rights protections to gays in Portland and a small island community. It would also have struck down Maine's hate crimes law.

"It's a great night for Maine. It's a great night for everyone, but especially it's a great night for driving a stake through the heart of hatred," said Richard Barringer, a board member of a group of opponents called Maine Won't Discriminate.

(Continued on Page 21)

HIPY closes, set to reopen under new management

The Houston Institute for the Protection of Youth (HIPY), a local agency that provides services to homeless HIV-positive and sexual minority youth, has been taken over by another Texas-based organization serving the homeless. However, its former executive director, Tracy Brown, said this week that the organization's mission and outreach will remain the same, and that the program's new administrators are "very committed" to serving gay and lesbian youth and have openly gay and lesbian persons on their staff.

(Continued on Page 3)

P-FLAG unveils ad campaign as Houston stations hedge

By SHERI COHEN DARBONNE
Houston Voice Editor

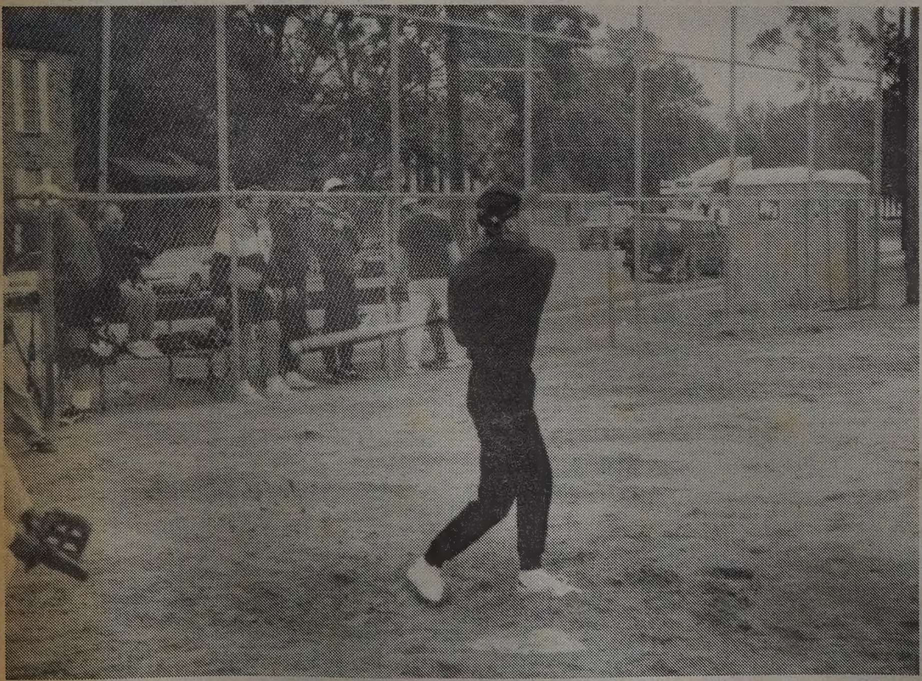
(HOUSTON)—Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG) unveiled on Wednesday its hard-hitting "Project Open Mind" campaign, featuring riveting, emotionally charged television advertisements aimed at educating the public about the role of hate rhetoric in anti-gay violence and suicide.

A 1:30 press conference at Christ Church Cathedral downtown was to have launched the national project and previewed the ads, which have been picked up by stations in Tulsa and Atlanta. Houston was to have been the participating city in the first phase of the project.

In Houston, however, audiences had already had the opportunity to get a glimpse of the ads—on a newscast Tuesday night on the local NBC affiliate, KPRC Channel 2. The subject of the news clip, ironically, was the station's decision—and that of other local stations—not to air the "controversial" ads, which juxtapose actual TV footage of the anti-gay speeches of the likes of Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson and Sen. Jesse Helms with images portraying the deadly consequences of their words.

The first of the advertisements features Nancy Rodriguez, the mother of Paul Broussard, a Houston man brutally murdered by ten young gay—bashers in 1991. The ad recreates the savage murder scene as the background audio drones Robertson's declaration that "Homosexuality is an abomination...the practices of these people is appalling" and Falwell's assertion that "God hates homosexuality." It closes with Rodriguez noting that, "My son Paul was murdered...the FBI said it was a gay-bashing."

(Continued on Page 8)



P.J. of the Red team hits....and yes, even scores! For more news about MSL and other local sports leagues and events, see Page 17

Openly gay actor/singer Keith Christopher's love for his craft and community provide his "Guiding Light"... Interview, Page 10

Black gay leaders to visit Texas

Leaders of the National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum (NBGLLF) will be visiting Houston later this month as part of an information exchange in preparation for their annual conference to be held in Dallas Feb. 15 to 19, 1996.

Planned for Nov. 19, the Houston meeting will feature Keith Boytkin, NBGLLF executive director, and Phil Wilson, founder and long-time activist. The meetings will provide an opportunity to meet the NBGLLF leaders and dialogue about the goals, needs and strategies of a national organization devoted to the needs of African-American lesbians and gay men. The meeting in Dallas will be Nov. 18.

Residents of other Texas cities interested in becoming an affiliate of the NBGLLF or for any other questions regarding the scheduled events please contact Steve Walker, NBGLLF Texas representative at (713) 864-2242.

Offices: 811 Westheimer Suite 105, Houston, TX 77006
Phones: Houston (713) 529-8490 Nationwide (800) 729-8490 Fax (713) 529-9531
Hours: Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Deadline: Monday noon
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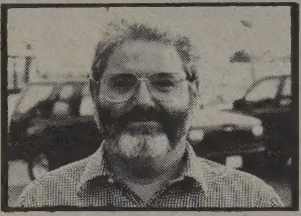

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Hosted by the Bering Care Center

A traditional Thanksgiving meal
will be served at Noon on
Thanksgiving Day
1440 Harold
in the Bering Memorial United Methodist
Church Fellowship Hall

All are welcome!
For more information, or to volunteer, call 520-7070.

Community Calendar

by Carolyn Roberts

If you would like an event listed in this section, please feel free to call me at 529-8490 or fax the facts to me at 529-9531.

Friday, Nov. 10

* Borders Book Store Gay/Lesbian Book Club meets at the Espresso Bar at 9634 Westheimer. Call 782-6066.

* HIV Art classes at the Art League. Call 523-8817

* HATCH meets. Call 942-7002.

* 12 step program at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.

* Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.

* Free Buffet at the Brazos River Bottom. 4:00 p.m.

* AIDS, Medicine and Miracles conference continues thru the 12th. Call 520-5537.

* Mary Eddy presents "Relationships through Spirituality." 5:30 p.m. Call 522-3555.

* Poetry reading by Lisa Kahn at Borders Book Shop. 8:00 p.m. Call 782-6066.

* Film at MFA: "Hello Photo." 8:00 p.m. Call 639-7300.

Saturday, Nov. 11

* Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club rides. Call 863-1860.

* After Hours on KPFT 12:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m. 90.1 FM. Call 526-5738.

* Military Party at Rich's. $20. Call 759-9606.

* "Stuffing a Wild Turkey" at the Venture-N. Benefits the Omega House. 10:00 p.m.

* "Serial Imagery" opens at the Firehouse Gallery. 6:00 p.m. Call 520-7840.

* Houston Area Bears social at the Venture-N. Call 867-9123.

* Film at MFA: "A Litany for Survival:The Life and Work of Audre Lorde." 7:30 p.m. Call 639-7300.

* Texas Association for Transsexuals Support meet at 3:00 p.m. Call 827-5913.

* Houston Wrestling Club practices at Midtowne Spa. 1:00 p.m. Call 453-7406.

* L'Art Noel by the Houston Artists Society. 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. At Pavilion on Post Oak. Call 370-0595.

Sunday, Nov. 12

* Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club meets. Call 863-1860.

* Front Runners meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Tennis center in Memorial Park. Call 522-8021.

* HATCH meets. Call 942-7002.

* Inner Loop Sunday Bowling League. Call 522-9612.

* Out in Ft. Bend meets. Call 344-0638.

* Brunch at the 611 12:30 p.m. $3

* Steak Night at the Brazos River Bottom. 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

* Pool Tournament at Chances. 6:00 p.m.

* Yea!Buffet! at the Venture-N. 5:00 p.m. Benefits the Colt 45's.

* The Royal, Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star holds their monthly meeting at Chances. 2:00 p.m.

* Deb and Kat's Anniversary show at Cousin's. 7:00 p.m. Benefits Coronation XII.

* Houston Area Bears monthly meeting at the BRB. Call 867-9123.

* Live Jazz at Main Street Books. 2:30 p.m. Call 522-3555.

* Film at MFA: "A Litany for Survival:The Life and Work of Audre Lorde." 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Call 639-7300.

* L' Art Noel by the Houston Artists Society. 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. At Pavilion on Post Oak. Call 370-0595.

* An Evening with the Eleanors. Benefits Omega House. 7:00 p.m. Tickets $75. Call 523-7710.

* Anti-Homophobia Alliance (AHA!) meets at 1116 Jackson. 3:00 p.m. Call 650-1215.

Monday, Nov. 13

* AFH Creative Writing Class. 3:00 p.m. Call 623-6796.

* Gay Fathers/Fathers First support group. 8:00 p.m. Call 861-6181.

* HeartSong open rehearsal at the Community Room in Sharpstown Center. 7:00 p.m. Call 526-9095.

* Calendar/Computer workshop for Pride Week. 7:00 p.m. Call 529-1223.

* Gay and Lesbian Readers Group meets at 3003 W. Holcombe. 7:00 p.m. Call 349-0050.

* Agora meets at 7:30 p.m. Call 623-6796.

* Positive Living Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 2:15 p.m. Call 539-0037.

* Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.

* Women and HIV/AIDS Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:15 p.m. Call 529-0037.

* Men Survivors of Sexual Abuse Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:15 p.m. Call 529-0037.

* Lesbian Survivors of Cancer and their caregivers at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 p.m. Call 529-0037.

* Men's HIV Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.

* Poetryworks, hosted by Mary Kay Fendel at Borders Book Shop. 7:00 p.m. Call 782-6066.

Tuesday, Nov. 14

* Front Runners meet at Memorial Park. 6:30 p.m. Call 522-8021.

* Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous meets at 1509 Fairview. 8:00 p.m. Call 495-8009.

* Basic Computer Skills Class at the Kolbe Project. Call 522-8182.

* Southern Country gives dance lesson at the Ranch. 9200 Buffalo Speedway. 8:00 p.m.

* Gay Men HIV+ Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 4:30 p.m. Call 529-0037.

* Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.

* Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.

* Bereaved Partners/Spouses at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:15 p.m. Call 529-0037.

* Women Survivors of Childhood Abuse at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 p.m. Call 529-0037.

* Free Dance Lessons at the Brazos River Bottom. 9:30 p.m. Call 528-9192.

* Houston Gay and Lesbian Parents support group meets at MCCR. 7:00 p.m. Call 980-7995.

(Continued on Page 9)

Dressy event celebrates the goal of 'Justice for All'

Black Tie Dinner Benefits HRC, Local Groups

By GLEN WEBBER

Houston Voice/Houston

One of the most exciting events that each year convenes the movers and shakers of Houston's gay political scene happened last Saturday night when the 1995 Houston Black Tie Dinner took place at the Westin Galleria Hotel. Over a thousand tuxedo-clad men and elegantly gowned women joined forces to celebrate the success of the national Human Rights Campaign and to raise money for local charities through the silent auction, in which hundreds of items where available to the highest bidder.

Entertainment was provided by Ezra Charles and his band, who kept the dance floor swinging, and by gay comedian Rob Nash, whose gay humor kept the crowd laughing. The most important award of the evening, the 1995 Humanitarian Award, was presented to Jack Jackson, whose involvement as a volunteer helping those affected by AIDS goes back to 1981.

Keynote speaker for the evening was the dynamic Barbara Rhodes, ex—governor of Oregon. She was governor of that state when anti-gay forces introduced what was to be known as Measure 13, an anti-gay initiative that would have seriously affected the ability of gays to take part in the affairs of the state. She also served as a leader of the successful campaign to defeat this measure, along with thousands of Oregonians who felt equal rights for all citizens was important and necessary.

"We will be challenged by the fear and ignorance and hysteria and anger created by those who cast stones, pass judgment, and withhold human understanding. And we must stand constantly ready to accept the challenge to right those wrongs," said Rhodes, whose inspiring speech drew repeated standing ovations.

Also present for the Houston event was the HRC's charismatic executive director, Elizabeth Birch.

The local beneficiaries for this year's event are The Assistance Fund; AVES; Bering Community Service Foundation; Body Positive/Houston; Lesbian Health Initiative; the Montrose Clinic/Houston Clinical Research Network; Texas Human Rights Foundation; P-FLAG Houston; Montrose Counseling Center and Omega House. (The amount of money raised was not available by our press deadline and will be announced later).

The Human Rights Campaign, which recently dropped the word "Fund" from its title—is the nation's largest lesbian and gay organization and is currently in the throes of a sweeping redefinition and grassroots membership drive. According to Birch, the HRC "envisions an America where lesbian and gay people are ensured of the basic human rights—and can be open honest and safe at home, at work and in the community."

Texas voters can apply for slots at Democratic Convention

Quick Notes

The Democratic National Committee has approved the delegate selection plan for Texas, clearing the way for Texas voters to apply for slots to attend the party's national convention. Convention delegates vote on the party's nominees for president and vice president. They also participate in caucuses that address specific issues, such as HIV/AIDS and gay and lesbian equal rights concerns. The Democratic convention will be held next summer in Chicago.

"Gay and lesbian voters from Texas have the opportunity to make their voices heard at the national level," said Kevin Layton, political deputy director for the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), the largest national lesbian and gay political organization. "Delegates have a hand in choosing the party's nominee for president and shaping the way the party handles our issues. We can have a tremendous impact by coming out for equal rights and getting involved."

People who are interested in serving as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention should contact the state party headquarters at: Texas Democratic Party 405 South 3rd Avenue—PO Box 737 Sioux Falls, SD 57101 (605) 335-7337.

HRC will provide information on signing up for the Republican convention as that information becomes available from the Republican National Committee.

HIPY becomes 'StreetWise'

(Continued from Page 1)

HIPY reached an agreement with Sand Dollar Inc. to take control of its financial operations after problems with financial management, taxes and record keeping led to the loss of a $225,000 state grant. Other grants will be transferred to Sand Dollar, but HIPY will remain responsible for much of its own debts, Brown said. He said he could not comment further on the financial problems because of pending litigation.

HIPY had provided assistance to so-called "street kids" including HIV and crisis counseling and referrals, medical care, housing assistance and drug treatment. The organization's drop-in center at 604 Westheimer, which had served as the entry point for the agency's other services and served an estimated 40-50 teenagers and young adults daily, closed its doors last week, but Brown said Monday that operations were to reopen this week under the new name StreetWise Houston, a program of Sand Dollar Inc. StreetWise plans to later move the center into another, larger location, but it will remain in the Montrose area, Brown said.

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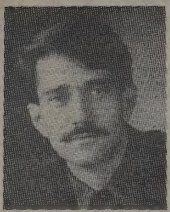


BRIAN DOUGLAS BRADLEY

Born: March 27, 1961
Died: November 5, 1995

Brian was born and raised in New Albany, Mississippi. He lived in New York, Hawaii and finally moved to Houston with his lover Josh Irvin, who died on October 10, 1989. After Josh's death, Brian began his illustrious career as both a gay and HIV activist. First, as a member of Act Up and later as a founding member of Queer Nation, Brian was not shy about bringing the fight against bigotry to the very doorstep of the enemy and he waged this fight with outrageous humor, gay abandon and pure guts.

In grim reaper drag, he disrupted a Baylor College of Medicine Commencement Address being given by Health and Human Services Director, Louis Sullivan, chiding the secretary for a lack of attention to the issue of HIV. In that same costume, Brian later disrupted Jon Lindsay and Commissioner's Court, which was attempting to destroy the Greater Houston AIDS Alliance, of which Brian was an elected member.

Protesting the incompetence of Iva Sue Cooper, the Executive Director of the HIV Division of Harris County Health Department, Brian donned Sue Cooper drag and greeted guests attending a breakfast hosted by Ms. Cooper.

Brian also directed his ire against the voices of intolerance, trashing book signings by both Anita Bryant and Jerry Falwell. When David Duke held a rally in League City, Brian stood up in a sea of red-necks and unfurled a banner which read, "NAZI GO HOME". A Chronicle photographer caught that moment on film and it won the Chronicle Picture of the Year.

While in Houston, Brian worked as a scrub nurse at M.D. Anderson Hospital until, in a newspaper article he identified himself, as both a person with HIV, and also as a nurse at the aforementioned hospital. When the hospital administration removed him from surgery and assigned him to a job as a clerk in the shipping department, Brian sued M.D. Anderson and took the case all the way to the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. In the process, Brian appeared on "Good Morning America," "Oprah," "Rolanda," and "Night Line" where he spoke eloquently, not only for himself but also for every person diagnosed with HIV. Brian won many awards for his activism, but was proudest of having been selected as Grand Marshal of the Gay Pride Parade in 1993. Also, in 1993 Brian ran for an At Large position on city council and received nearly 28,000 votes.

Brian will be remembered by his close friends (too numerous to mention) for his kindness his dedication and humor. Brian Bradley is survived by his father, Edward Bradley of Senatobia, Mississippi; his mother, Jeanne Bradley; his brother, Kevin Bradley; his sister, Kristel Erwin of Potts Camp, Mississippi; and hundreds of persons with HIV who will probably never know how much Brian cared about them or how much he did on their behalf.

STEVEN C. WRIGHT

Steven C. Wright, born in Canandaigua, New York February 2, 1961, made his transition to a more peaceful life, at his home in Houston on October 31, 1995. A Houston resident for the past eleven years, Steven considered himself a naturalized Texan. A classic car fanatic, Steven worked as a mechanic at several local garages as well as operating his own repair shop "Rein-CAR-nation" for several years. His repair capabilities were not limited to garages as Steven was willing to offer a helping hand whenever and wherever needed.

Known throughout the community because of his involvement with local organizations and employment at several clubs, most recently the Brazos River Bottom, Steven will be missed by many.

Those carrying his spirit deeply in their hearts include his companion of eight years, Tom Browning; parents David Wright and Verna Klug; brother, Terry Wright and family; special moms, Alice Wright and Betty Browning; his babies, Gertrude, Annie, and Flo; as well as numerous relatives, friends and associates.

A celebration of Steven's transition will be held Sunday, November 12, 1995 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 1901 Taft St.

The family would like to express their most sincere thanks, appreciation, and prayers to Dr. Joseph C. Gathe, Jr. and staff (especially Claudia), as well as the staff and nurses of Park Plaza Hospital (especially Bob, Roz and Robbie).

Donations in Steven's name may be made to The Pet Patrol, Colt 45's, or the PWA organization of your choice.

MICHAEL DEAN SAYLORS

Born: October 28, 1961
Died: October 5, 1995

It is with great sadness that I announce the passing of my beloved lifemate and partner of 13 and 1/2 years, Michael Saylors. Michael was a hairdresser who could really make people gorgeous. He had a warm smile for all people and a big heart. For those who knew his warmth and humor, I know you'll miss him as I do.

It was his privilege to have worked at Kindred Spirits and under the name Michele Michaels, to hold the title of Miss K.S. He also placed second in the first Miss Montrose contest. Michael loved performing at benefits and dancing. He was full of life until the very end.

He is survived by his mother, Frankie Moore; sisters, Connie, Cindy and Terry; his best friend, Gary Kobza; as well as myself, Charles Wahl. Please join with me Saturday, November 11, 1995, at 3:00 p.m. at Mary's courtyard to celebrate the life of one who shared his talent, strength, and love.

MICHAEL WILLIAM MACY

Born: January 29, 1960
Died: November 2, 1995

Michael Macy, a native Houstonian, passed away on November 2, 1995 after a prolonged illness due to AIDS. He was a graduate of Westbury High School. From there he entered the field of computer programming. Additionally, he directed his own business affairs and was part owner of Flowers by Gary and West Hollow Book Store.

Michael leaves to cherish his memory, his mother Sylvia F. Macy, sister Catherine K. Macy, grandmother Gladys B. Garcia, and uncles J.D. Gonzalez and Ed Flores.

Significant others closest to kin: Randall Mac Mahon, Dr. Modesto Botas and Annette, Alex, Tommy, Jim Gray, Beaver, Amy, Ashley and Lloyd Morrison.

Special thanks to his attending physician and friend, Dr. Crad Duren, and the staff at Park Plaza Hospital who help to make this past year comfortable.

Memorial services were held at St. Thomas More Church on November 4, 1995, the service was officiated by Rev. Norberto Conde and the service was sung by a friend of the family, Marion Norris.

For those desiring, Memorial contributions may be made to the AIDS Foundation or the charity of their choice.

Mike. He was the one that showed me after all I had been through that life could still be beautiful. My companion, my love, my light. This man showed me that you can still have feelings; feelings are necessary. He could calm me with a thought and I mean that literally. He showed me that I still had love inside of me. There were times when he was sick when he would shine like a beacon just to show me that life wasn't over yet! I learned how to love him.

It was difficult at times, but it was worth it. My little Buddy was the best thing that ever happened to me. He always understood. Selfishness - it wasn't a part of his life, which compelled me to give all I had for him. I knew Michael a year and a few days. We celebrated life together the best way we could which was mostly staying at home listening, loving, caring for each other.

There are people out there who knew Michael Macy before things started to change. I myself met Mike after lots of difficulties in his life. When we met I knew in my heart that he was mine to care for. It's the way it should be.

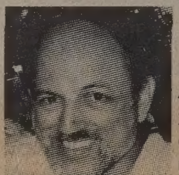
Sometimes we know these things. I asked God to send me someone with no guidelines, he sent me Mike. Thank the Lord. I knew from the moment we met he was what I had asked for. Know this. He was loved very much, my little buddy. My sunshine, my life as I came to know it. I accepted freely to care for him, not out of pity's sake, but because he was a genuine soul. My soulmate he became. It wasn't easy, but when it got rough I always had his smile. Beauty, well Mike covered all of that. Later, as we got to know each other better, I realized that I had been given the opportunity to know someone really special. He could take the worst situation and find some good in it. When we would spend quiet time together he could always tell when something was wrong. Even though he had a hard time phrasing what he wanted to say he always made me feel better, even when he didn't feel very good...People like Mike are special. He cared about other people more than he did for himself. I didn't have a whole lot to offer when I met Mike, but for the first time in my life that didn't matter.

We could take a bad day and make it better. He would say, "Randall, it's gonna be alright." I didn't know at first how to accept his unconditional love, but I learned and you know, all of a sudden, I had all the strength in the world.

He would say, "Randall, you can do it," and because of that I found inner strength. Mike was a christian. He found solace with God. His God that understood. We would say our prayers together and sometimes it was very hard.

He would pray for everyone but himself, but I would say my silent prayers for him. In our last days together, he brought out the hurt in me so he could take it away. He never wanted his loved ones to hurt. He was so special. My little Buddy, may the Lord's light shine upon thee and may ye know that God loves all his children. And I know that you were one of his special children. You taught me how to feel again, and I hope you are my angel to take me home also.

My companion, Michael W. Macy.
I'll always love you, Randall
P.S. Continue to guide me little Buddy!



RAYMOND THOMAS BREWIN

Raymond Thomas Brewin, 45, passed away on October 24, 1995 after a long and courageous battle with numerous complications with AIDS. His love for life, and the support of those who loved him enabled him to be one of the longest term AIDS survivors. Ray never considered himself to be dying of AIDS, but a person LIVING with AIDS even though he miraculously survived numerous severe life threatening illnesses throughout the past few years. Ray studied to be a priest at St. Joseph Abbey and Seminary in Louisiana. Realizing that Catholic Church views on gay relationships were inconsistent with his strong moral convictions on the worth and dignity of every human being, he changed his vocation. He was graduated from Southeastern Louisiana University with Honors in 1971, taught history in New Orleans schools, and was an assistant scoutmaster of a boy scout troop. After initial training in the U.S. Army, Ray served with the Louisiana National Guard for six years. He was honorably discharged as a Captain in 1978. While on active duty in summer 1974, Ray fell in love with another officer, Ron LaCarna, at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas. In 1975 Ray moved to Baton Rouge to be with Ron as his spouse to love and grow together for the rest of his life. Ray studied Computer Science at Louisiana State University. Ray and Ron moved to Houston Texas in 1978. Ray last worked at the Computer Sciences Corporation supporting the Space Shuttle project where he held the title Senior Member of the Technical Staff before he left on medical disability in 1991.. Ray loved sailing, scuba diving, snow skiing, nature, gardening, camping, writing. Ray had a broad knowledge of science, arts, history and every field you can imagine. Ray was involved in numerous organizations supporting Gay and Lesbian rights and the right for same-sex marriage and full equality the same as any other American Citizen. He was a strong supporter of AIDS research and service organizations. He supported HIPY for a short while until his health intervened. He had been a member of several gay social groups. Those who took the effort to understand and love him, realized that his unflinching candor, honesty and loving concern about everything in life, especially in his relationships, was very special and something that most people do not possess and have difficulty achieving. Ray's joy in life came from the very simple things that nature provides and from the intimate sharing with friends. When someone needed his help, Ray was always there. Ray lost over 60 friends to AIDS, but still managed to keep strong hope and a positive attitude from deep inside. Once when his eye doctor felt sad that he had to tell Ray bad news, Ray continued to smile. The doctor asked how he could take the news so easily, and Ray replied, "I can be happy and sick or be unhappy and sick. I can't change the sick, but I can choose to be happy."

Ray is survived by his life companion and spouse of 21 years, Ron LaCarna; his parents, five brothers and two sister, Ron's mother, and an extended family to include the BAUF AIDS Care Team. The team was always there for him and gave him much joy. Ray planned, but was unable to write a letter of appreciation to his doctor's and their staff, especially Dr. Patricia Salvato who tirelessly worked to help Ray keep his hope and maintain the best quality of life he could, not only with her outstanding expertise, but with the deep compassion and caring she has for her patients. Thanks to the nurses and staff of the 7th floor of Twelve Oaks Hospital for their dedication to patients with AIDS and their care givers. Ray will never be forgotten and is still with all of us who love him and he is watching over us. Memorial contributions can be made to the AABA or AmFAR. His funeral service was held on October 28 officiated by Heather L. Hanson. Ray was interred in the cemetery of St. Joseph Abbey.

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HOUSTON VOICE MAIL
Letters to the Editor

Bad To The Bone

FROM TERRI RICHARDSON

President, Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus

As I write this, I do not yet know the outcome of the City Council elections, so I cannot judge the impact of the Houston Voice's so-called "voter guide" and Glen Webber's "Gay Today" column. Responsible journalism requires that, if a bombshell is to be dropped, the target should have an opportunity to defend itself. Unfortunately, that was not the case with the voter guide, where Jew Don Boney was linked to the Nation of Islam and Louis Farrakhan. One needs only to spend about a minute with Mr. Boney to gauge the depth of his commitment to equal civil rights for all people, including gays and lesbians. One needs only to perform a cursory review of his credentials to know that Mr. Boney is a Baptist minister, not a Muslim. Apparently, no one at the Houston Voice could spare the five minutes necessary to report the truth.

It was bad enough that the voter guide contained such misleading distortions, but Glen Webber's column bordered on the unconscionable. Mr. Webber characterized the HGLPC's endorsement of Mr. Boney as "insulting" and "absurd." Regrettable, it is the Caucus which has borne the insult. An estimate of the time that various Caucus members have spent with Mr. Boney puts the total for many of us between 12 and 20 hours. I know people who have met, fallen in love, and professed a desire to marry in less time. In other words, our exposure to Mr. Boney, both before and after the endorsement, has been extensive, and maintained over a period of several weeks. Mr. Webber, on the other hand, admitted to me at KPFT's studios that he has never spoken to Mr. Boney. I personally have heard him speak publicly on five separate occasions in the last three months, and never once has a racist, homophobic, anti-Semitic, or sexist remark been uttered. In fact, quite the contrary could be said. Jew Don Boney is an articulate, insightful, impassioned crusader for human rights for all people, and, given the new challenge and opportunity to represent Montrose on council, he has become an outspoken advocate for equal rights for gays and lesbians. To have sold an individual so short based on misinformation, misdirection, or simply a misguided "feeling" is an injustice that gays and lesbians fight every day of or lives. It is therefore particularly heinous that one of us would so thoughtlessly and freely heap such an injustice upon someone else.

Mr. Webber has demanded, purportedly on behalf of the entire community, an explanation and an apology from the Caucus. Again, simply reading the HGLPC Election News (20,000 copies were mailed and distributed to Montrose voters) would have given Mr. Webber all the explanation he needed as to why HGLPC endorsed the candidates it did. Unlike many other endorsing bodies, HGLPC does not appoint a few "chosen" people to meet together behind closed doors to decide what is "best" for the community. Membership is HGLPC is open to everyone. Every member is invited to participate in the candidate screening process, which consists of a written questionnaire that the candidate is required to answer and sign, at least a thirty-minute face-to-face interview between the candidate and the screening panel (open membership) and a frank, often lengthy meeting between all members of each screening panel to discuss the candidates and to vote on a recommendation to the body of the caucus. At that point, the candidates are invited again to address the entire membership of the caucus, and every member is entitled to vote on endorsement. No person's voice or vote counts more than another's. This year, because of the expected crowded field and the importance of the District D council race, the Caucus co-sponsored a community forum in early August, which was open not just to HGLPC members, but to everyone (including Mr. Webber). Six District D candidates participated in this candidate forum, the first of many that were held in the District over the course of the campaign. The Houston Chronicle covered the forum, and commented on it in its sunday edition; Glen Webber was not there.

Simply put, HGLPC spent hours upon hours filtering through an impressive field of candidates to identify the one person who were believed could made the biggest difference representing the gay and lesbian community. Jew don boney was that candidate. The motion to endorse Mr. Boney was exhaustively debated, and the vote was not even close. It was a decision in which even Mr. Webber could have freely participated.

It is incredible that one would believe that a group so diverse as to include Annise Parker, Sue Lovell, Ray Hill, Jim Owens, Eugene Harrington, Pat Gandy, Cicely Wynne, Chris Bacon, Steve Walker, Gary Grant, and many, many others would purposely try to "dupe" the community into voting for the wrong candidate. None of these individuals has anything to gain from endorsing Mr. Boney, and in fact, would risk their credibility as political activists and community leaders. However, we all discovered that Jew Don Boney, an intelligent, soft-spoken strategist, is also a lifelong, hardcore street activist who has helped to move mountains for Houston's African American community. We all believed that, if given the opportunity, he would be equally effective helping us move our mountains.

(Continued on Page 7)

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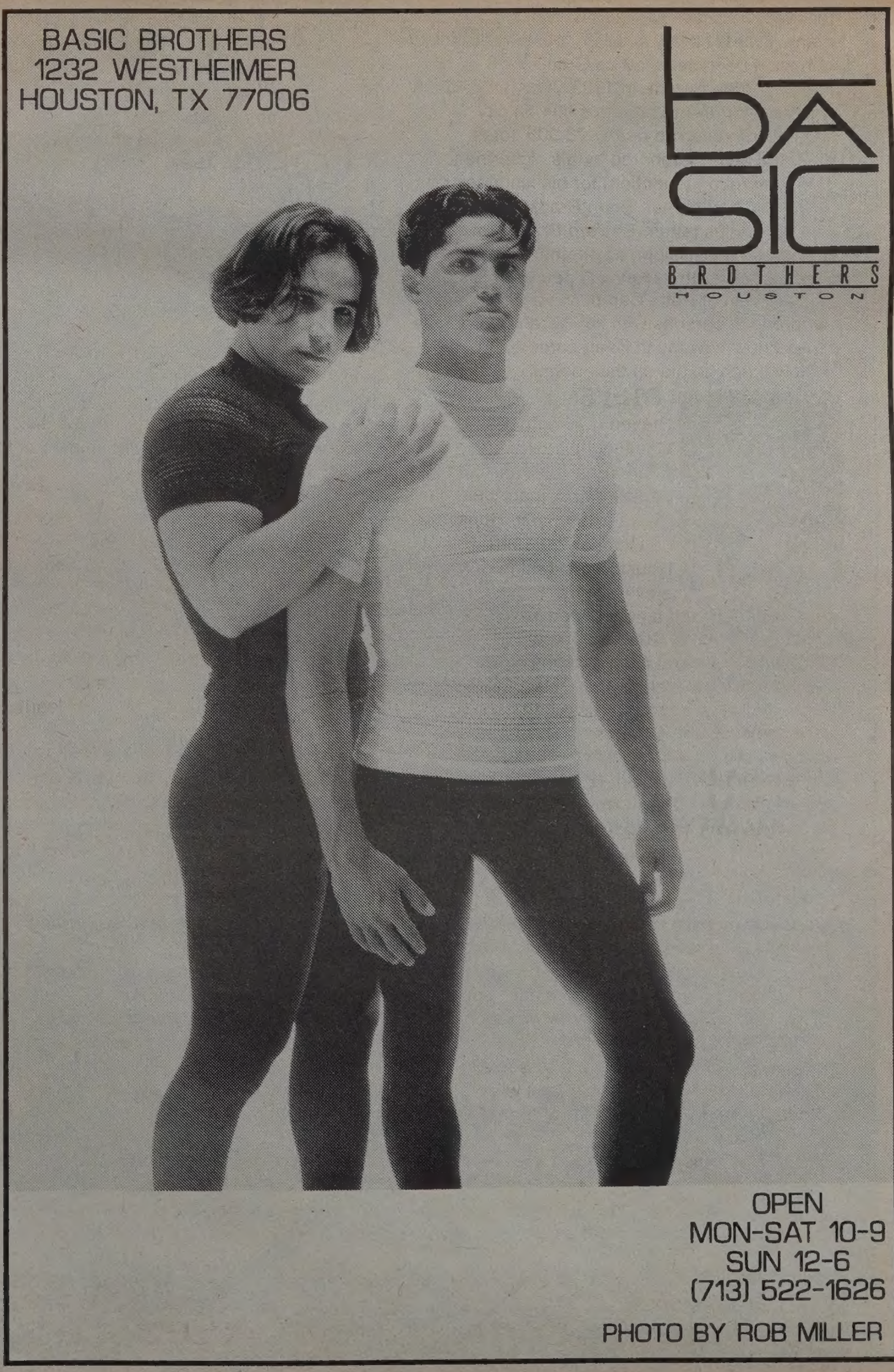
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HOUSTON VOICE MAIL
Letters to the Editor

Continued From Page 5

As to Mr. Webber's belief that the Caucus owes the community an apology, I would suggest that rather it is Mr. Webber who owes the community an apology. His careless, irresponsible, unreliable 'opinion' piece did the Houston Voice and the gay and lesbian voters of Houston a grave disservice. HGLPC constantly strives to refine its screening and endorsement process. HGLPC constantly seeks 'new blood' from the community to participate in the mechanism that keeps us all better informed. We will not and should not always agree, but we should hold ourselves and each other to principles of truth and integrity.

Politicians who have the guts to seek our endorsement, given today's political climate, should at least be treated fairly, rather that subjected to an eleventh hour ambush. If Glen Webber and the *Houston Voice* intend to continue political reporting and commentary, I hope we can expect better in the future.

Voice Under Fire (Part 2)

FROM MATTHEW HUSTON

Houston, Texas

For the second year in a row the *Houston Voice* has decided, at election time, to act in the worst interest of Houston's lesbian and gay community.

Readers may recall that last year the *Voice* endorsed Carolyn Marks Johnson for a district court position. Her opponent, David Jennings Willis, received the endorsement of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus. It remains unclear how the Voice decides whom to endorse, but the method surely pales to the open, rigorous, democratic process the Caucus goes through to arrive at its endorsements.

The year the *Voice* thankfully decided not to issue its own endorsements. However, the description it printed of the HGLPC endorsed candidate for District D, Jew Don Boney, was irresponsibly misleading. The description linked Boney to Louis Farrakhan and then wrongly implied the candidate was anti-gay, anti-white, anti-woman, and anti-Semitic. Journalistic integrity may have faltered in calling Boney 'controversial' or describing the HGLPC 'shocking' without even asking for a comment from the organization. But printing lies goes well beyond a lapse in judgment.

The real kicker, though, was Glen Webber's "Gay Today" opinion piece. It was a misinformed heap of verbal refuse from start to finish. The voice was derelict in its responsibility to the lesbian and gay community for printing it on the eve of the election, especially considering it did not offer the Caucus an opportunity to respond.

Funny that Webber's name was not listed on the screening panel that interviewed seven of the ten District D candidates. Funny that he didn't attend the Caucus meeting where the endorsement in this race was debated at length. Funny that he didn't even attend the Caucus's candidate forum—or Log Cabin's, for that matter—where he could have seen and heard the District D candidates first hand.

I only wish it were so funny.

It would have been an entirely different matter had Webber researched the candidates' positions, backgrounds, etc., and put together an informed opinion piece recommending Saundria Chase Gray over Jew Don Boney. But instead of participating in the process, Webber chose to sit on the sidelines, painting himself as a knowledgeable political commentator but in actuality writing from a position of ignorance. He went on to lob terms like "absurd" and "insulting" at HGLPC's endorsements and to describe the HGLPC's endorsed candidate as lacking "vision, integrity, and commitment."

That is prejudice in its purest form, and it has no place being espoused in the voice, or any other reputable newspaper. Sadly, in the end it is only Webber who appears "absurd and "insulting."

I hope that Glen Webber, the Houston Voice, and the rest of the community will become increasingly involved in the political process and develop an informed opinion about political candidates.

The Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus will be screening candidates for the spring primaries beginning in January. anyone in the community is welcome to join the Caucus and interview the candidates. You will see that the HGLPC does not come by its endorsements carelessly or easily. Only with broad participation can we ensure a strong voice from the gay and lesbian community that will project all the way to City Hall.

(Editor's Note: The attributes you cited were used in the piece to describe not Jew Don Boney, but the views of Louis Farrakhan, who was not to our knowledge a candidate in the Houston election).

Tit-Clamps, Disco and Politics

FROM CHRIS HUGHES

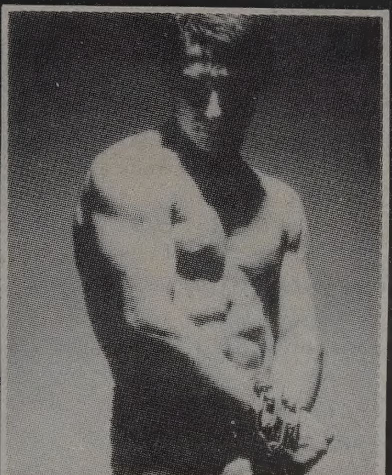
Houston, Texas

In response to Glen Webber's article in the preceding issue, I think it should be advised that Mr. Webber stick to topics he knows best (tit-clamps and discos) instead of venturing into the field of political commentary.

We, at the Caucus, work earnestly for the betterment of the gay and lesbian community. The Caucus is made up of many differing political affiliations which all add to the selection of the many candidates that we screen during the endorsement process. The Caucus is always open to any member of the community who is wishing to involve themselves in this important function. Mr. Webber, instead, painted the Caucus as a deceptive entity trying to pull the wool over the community's eyes. Well, Mr. Webber, I have some questions for you!

Where were you Mr. Webber when the candidate selection was brought before the Caucus? Where were you, Mr. Webber, when the Caucus held an open community forum on the candidates? Where were you, Mr. Webber, when the Caucus asked for greater community involvement? Funny how you never address these issues in that gathering of jumbled misrepresentations you call an article! So, tell us, Mr. Webber, how much real background analysis did you do before you started slinging that written trash? If you would like to compare notes, please let me know!

As for Mr. Webber's column title, "GAY TODAY," I think maybe he should change it to "GAY UNKNOWING" because that is definitely where his talents lie. If you are what is "GAY TODAY" Mr. Webber, then we are all in trouble—unknowing and uninvolved!



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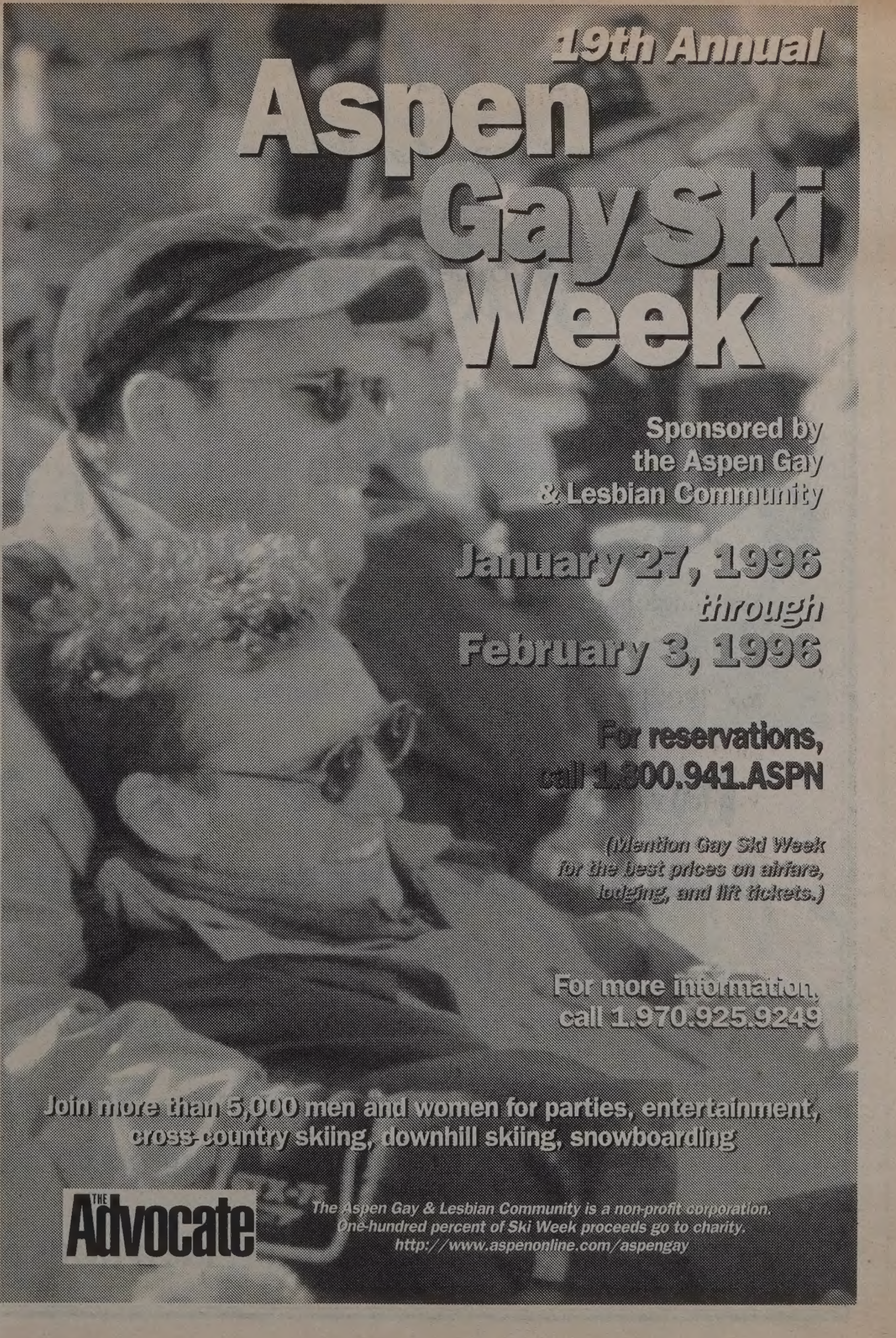

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P-FLAG launches 'Open Mind;' some TV stations can't make up theirs

(Continued from Page 1)

The second ad portrays a young girl frantically searching through drawers and cabinets for some unknown item. Eventually, as clips from Falwell and Helms' speeches play in the background, she is shown finding a handgun, then picking it up, crying, as an announcer states matter-of-factly: "It is estimated that 30 percent of teenage suicide victims are gay or lesbian."

In stark contrast to the voices of the so-called religious right that emerge as the "villains" in the ad campaign, one Houston minister appeared as a speaker at the Project Open Mind press conference. Rev. Don Sinclair, pastor of Bering United Methodist Church and his wife Katherine—now active members of P-FLAG Houston—tell an emotionally compelling story of how their own family was touched with hate: the Sinclairs learned of their gay son's sexual orientation after he, like Paul Broussard, was brutally murdered by gay-bashers.

Other local speakers appearing at the press conference were Barbara Winston, LMSW-ACP and the Rev. Walter Taylor, Dean of Christ Church Cathedral.

Project Open Mind is a national educational campaign intended to call attention to the effects of hate speech directed at lesbian and gay Americans. It is being conducted by the national P-FLAG umbrella organization, which sent representatives to the houston media event. P-FLAG is an international organization with affiliates in 380 U.S. cities and 11 other countries.

P-FLAG began developing Open Mind in 1993, in response to a rising tide of anti-gay hate speech which surfaced during the debates over gays in the military and the anti-gay initiatives in Colorado and Oregon. In the two years since then, the prevalence of anti-gay rhetoric, hate crimes against gay men and lesbians and anti-gay initiatives has increased.

According to Mitzi Henderson, the national board president of P-FLAG, the project is an effort to treat the cause, not just the symptoms, of the hate crimes against gay and lesbian Americans.

The advertising spots—not public service announcements, but paid advertisements—are designed to raise public awareness of the harm caused by anti-gay rhetoric.

Although the organization had tightly controlled media about the project until this week, Channel 2 aired its report on the campaign on Tuesday night, the day before the planned press conference. According to Barbara Friedman, the local media coordinator for the project, the decision to air the report, which included a clip of the "controversial" material, was made after P-FLAG parents attempted to persuade the station to carry the ads after the station's initial rejection.

By the *Houston Voice's* press time, no local station had committed to running the ads. Sources at local stations KTRK (ABC/Channel 13); KHOU (CBS/Channel 11); KRIV (FOX/Channel 26) and KTXH (UPN/Channel 20) indicated Wednesday that no decision had been made. The Channel 2 Report stated that KNTV-Channel 39 initially had agreed to air the spots, but was reconsidering.

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Pride Task Force starts its task

Quick Notes

The first meeting of the Pride Committee of Houston's newly formed long-range planning Task Force, formed to work out details of the annual parade and pride week observance for 1997 and beyond, was held Tuesday, Oct. 24. About a dozen people showed up to take part in the open meeting, at which several lists of recommendations were presented concerning the parade and Pride Week in general.

The participants shared suggestions on the date and route of the parade, and discussed the logistics involved with various options. "This is just the beginning," Task Force members reported. A questionnaire is being prepared that will be mailed out and distributed at local businesses and restaurants; the survey is planned in part as a tool to help the members make an "educated decision" on whether to move the parade.

The next Task Force meeting is scheduled to be held Tuesday, Nov. 14, at 6:30 p.m. at 2700 Albany, 3rd Floor. Persons interested in joining the effort are encouraged to attend; for more information, call the Pride Line, 529—6979.

Puzzle Solution

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initialed names: Martin Van Buren, George Washington Carver, Clark Kent, Alexander Graham Bell

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Community Calendar

(Continued from Page 2)

Wednesday, Nov. 15

* Shiela Lennon performs at Chances. 9:00 p.m. Call 523-7217.

* Houston Pride Band practices at Dignity Houston. Call 524-0218.

* GLOBAL meets at 4:00 p.m. Call 743-7539.

* Toopee's Coffee Bar has "Activity Night" with a complimentary buffet. 5:00 p.m. to 8:00p .m. Call 522-7662.

* HIV survivor Support Group meets at 2929 Unity Drive. 7:00 p.m. Call 782-4050.

* Men's Network at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.

* Lambda Rollerskating Club skates at 8:00 p.m. Call 933-5818.

* Women's Network at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.

* Ongoing Mixed Living in Process Group for men and women. Call 622-7250 for more info.

* Living with Chronic Pain at Montrose Counseling Center. 9:30 p.m. Call 529-0037.

* Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.

* Women's Issues Process Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 p.m. Call 529-0037.

* Lesbian/Bisexual Survivors at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 p.m. Call 529-0037.

* Men's Network at Montrose counseling Center. 7:00 p.m. Presentation by National Leather Association:Houston. Call 529-0037.

* Author Patti Fox discusses her book "Star Style" at Borders Book Shop. 8:00 p.m. Call 782-6066.

* OutVote meets at the Multi-Service Center. 7:00 p.m. Call 520-VOTE.

Thursday, Nov. 16

* Montrose Ice Picks skate at the Galleria. 8:00 p.m. Call 629-1432.

* Broadway Showtunes at J.R's. 9:00 p.m. Call 521-2519.

* Art Classes at The Art League. 1:00 P.M. Call 523-8817

* Front Runners meet at Memorial Park. 6:30 p.m. Call 522-8021.

* Gay Men's Chorus of Houston open rehearsal at 7:00 p.m. Call 521-7464.

* Twentysomething meets at 7:30 p.m. Call 531-9396.

* KPFT Lesbian and Gay Voices airs at 9:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Call 866-6505.

* Burger and Chili night at the Brazos River Bottom. 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

* Steak Night at the 611 Pub. 6:30 p.m.

* Rainbow Ranglers give dance lessons at the Brazos River Bottom. 9:30 p.m. Free. Call 880-0670.

* Safer Sex for Lesbians at Ms. B's 9:30 p.m. Call 666-3464.

* Ongoing gay men's Living in Process Group. Call 622-7250.

* Open Mike Night at Cafe Artiste. 1601 W. Main. 8:00 p.m. Call 528-3704.

* HIV+ Men Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 1:15 p.m. Call 529-0037.

* Relapse Prevention at Montrose Counseling Center. 2:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.

* Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.

* Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.

* HIV Affected at CASA. 7:00 p.m. Call 796-2272.

* Men's Therapy Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.

* Author & teacher Dianthus will discuss her book Stoneheadge: A Door of Recall. At Borders Book Shop. 8:00 p.m. Call 782-6066.

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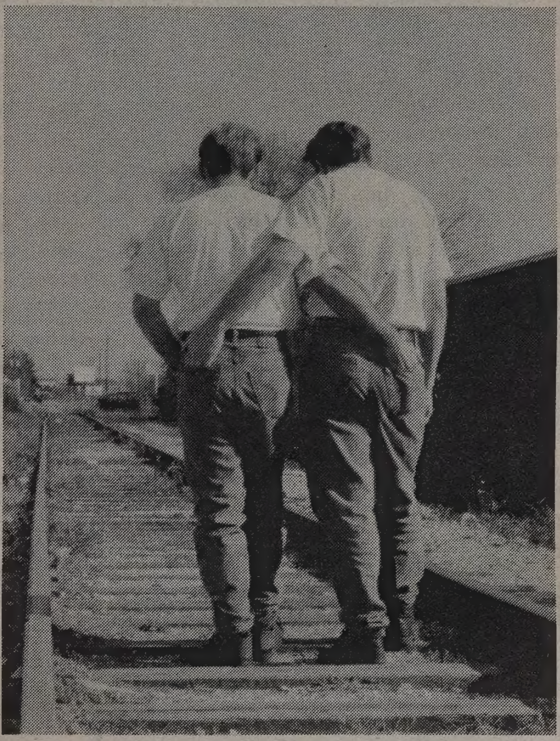

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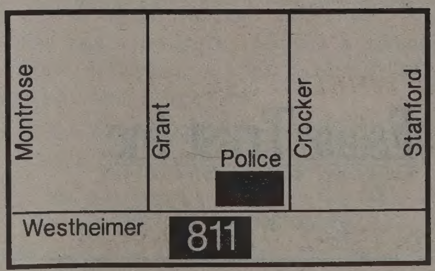


Gay soap star shuns closet, shares spotlight with causes

By JON ANTHONY

Houston Voice/Houston

It is difficult for anyone to make a successful inroad into the television industry. Imagine the adversity you would confront if you were an openly gay, HIV-positive actor. Singer/Actor Keith Christopher has achieved the aforementioned with a tenacity that belies conventional wisdom. Christopher made television history last June as the first openly gay and HIV-positive actor to portray an individual with the same plight on NBC's Another World. As a result, Keith was cast as HIV counselor Wyatt on the long-running CBS serial *Guiding Light*. In a recent interview with the Houston Voice, Keith spoke about his career, life and future endeavors. An amiable and non-pretentious individual, Keith spoke with refreshing candor about his trials and travails. Keith's first and foremost passion is music and he has had considerable success to date. He is the proud recipient of *Billboard Magazine's* Certificate of Achievement Award for his song, "Smiling in the Dark," which appeared on his 1994 self-titled debut album. The album which was available in the Gay Music Guide generated enough interest to warrant a second album to be released this winter originally entitled Naked Truth. Keith muses about how he may have to change the name of the CD because there is an NBC series in development slated for airing later this year with the same name, albeit, he indicates in jest that he came up with the name first.

Christopher has amassed an impressive repertoire in various avenues of the entertainment industry and is realistic in his depiction of how success is attained. Without hesitancy, he states that the secret to success is "75% who you know and 25% skill." He has appeared on Entertainment Tonight, The CBS News at Noon and The Charles Perez show. In addition, he has been a guest on numerous radio talk shows and been featured in several prominent magazines. Not one to rest on his laurels, Keith also conducts Safe Sex and AIDS awareness seminars for student groups through the auspices of Body Positive. He has proven to be a popular speaker on the lecture circuit and is in constant demand.

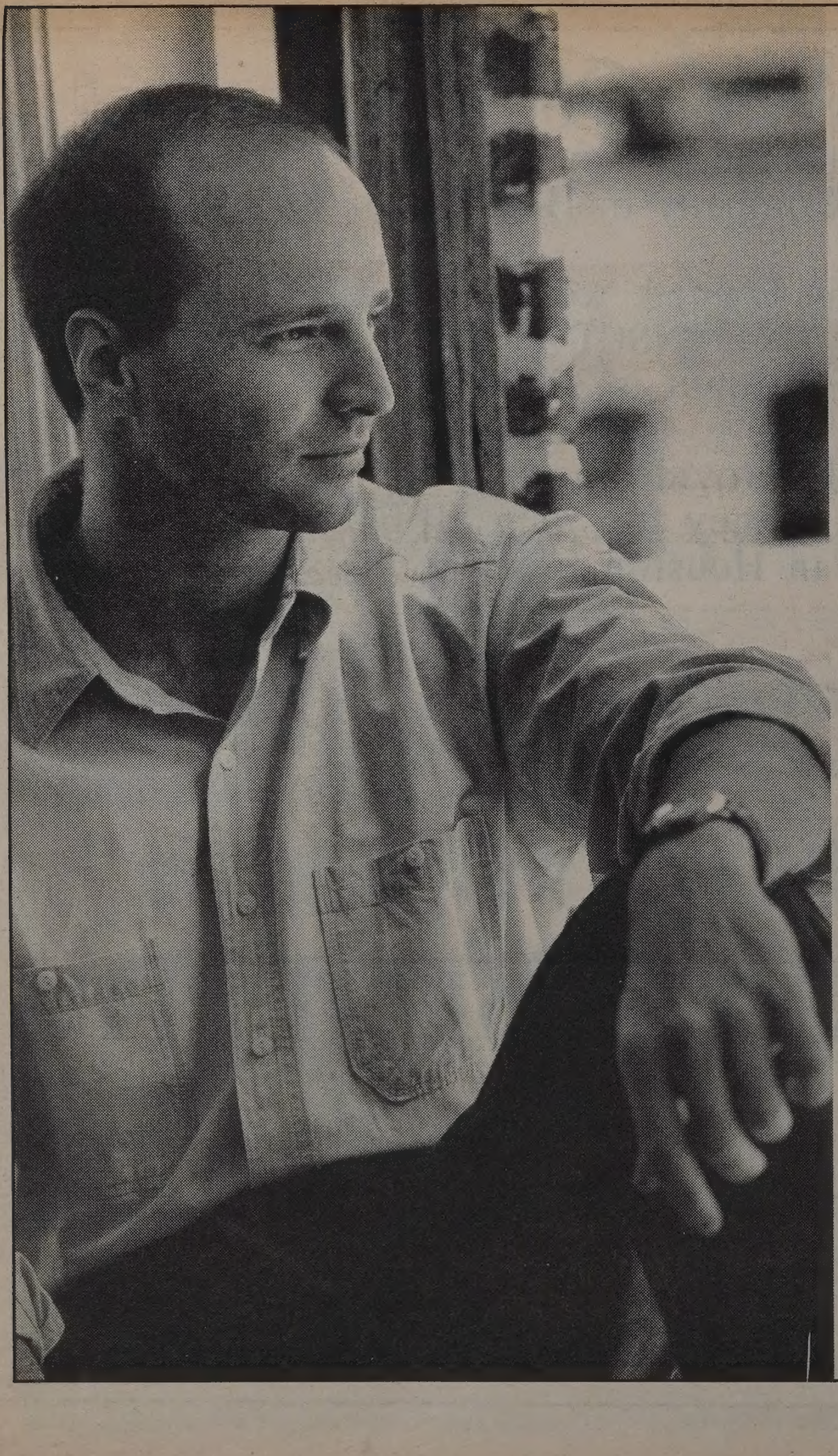
Christopher's enthusiasm for his craft and the subsequent influence he may have as a positive role-model for young people in America, as a result, is quite refreshing. Indeed, Keith's appearance on The Charles Perez show is indicative of his commitment towards his convictions. He was asked to be a guest on an episode of The Charles Perez show entitled "Too Cool for Safe Sex." When he arrived on the set, he was informed that the show would be called, "Too Stupid for Safe Sex," which he thought was insipid in itself. When asked on the show what he thought of the participants failure to practice safe sex, Keith replied, "There really is no such thing as safe sex with the exception of abstinence. ...there is safer sex." Christopher indicates that the inclination towards having guests "annihilate each other" on these type of shows is inappropriate.

Christopher is also an outspoken advocate for gay rights. He states emphatically that "coming out is the most affective method for gay acceptance in Society." He certainly practices what he preaches. He serenaded Republican Senator Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), along with 17 other gay men on FOX's TV Nation with the song "What the World Needs Now is Love," a Dionne Warwick hit in the 1960's. The topic of that evening's show was combating hate groups with love rather than confrontation. He recounts how there was a group of black cheerleaders who sang the Supremes hit "Stop in the Name of Love" at a KKK compound.

As a musician, he has performed in some of the Big Apple's most prestigious clubs and cabarets as well as some touring productions of Broadway hits. He launched a one-man show last October entitled "The Flip Side" which he performs periodically, at the Triad Theatre in New York City, as a benefit for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS organization. Having lost his lover of 5 years to AIDS last January, Keith knows first hand the affects this disease encumbers upon us and his desire to educate and gain acceptance of gay individuals into mainstream society is heartfelt and genuine.

At 38, Christopher is focusing on the goals he has set forth for himself both professionally and personally. He is currently single, astonishing considering his good looks and benevolent personality, and plans to lobby the network to maintain Wyatt as a regular character on the CBS staple. Originally introduced as a HIV counselor for series regular Lucy through her testing and diagnostic period, he hopes the character develops into a recurring part. As it stands, Lucy will test positive only to find out a later date that she is negative. Keith laments that he is glad that a straight woman is portrayed as appearing HIV-positive and hopes that it will help break the stigma of AIDS as being a gay man's disease.

Keith Christopher, singer, actor, public speaker, role-model and fundraiser appears on *Guiding Light* which airs on CBS affiliate Channel 11 in Houston at 2:00 p.m. daily. If you want to help Keith lobby CBS-Television to keep his character Wyatt in the script on a regular basis, give them a call and let them know that there is an audience out there who will support a positive portrayal of a gay or lesbian individual. I asked Keith two questions at the end of our conversation which he answered with typical candor. When asked what advice he would procure to aspiring actors, he quickly iterated this response: "Don't do it." I gave him an opportunity to express whatever he desired to the gay community and his response was demonstrative of his sincerity as an individual. Keith suggests that if you love someone, let them know, before it's too late. Sounds like good advice, especially with the holiday season sneaking up on us.



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Community Organizations Bulletin Board

Gay Fathers

Recent changes to Texas Family Law concerning divorce and child custody will be discussed Monday Nov. 16 by Houston attorney Michael Garrett.

Sponsored by the Gay Father's Houston, the meeting will be at Grace Lutheran Church, 2515 Waugh beginning at 8:00 p.m. There will be an opportunity for questions and answers.

Wellness Workshops

The Wellness Learning Center is offering open enrollment in their health education programs teaching people affected by HIV/AIDS the opportunities for building and maintaining health.

The five core programs highlighting the key areas that impact people living with HIV:Nutrition & Exercise; Wellness & Complementary Therapies; Understanding Medical Care; Love, Lust & Intimacy; and Legal/Financial Planning.

All of the workshops are free of charge and are presented at the Metropolitan Multiservice Center, 1475 W.Gray from 7:00 until 9:00 p.m. Graduates of the program—having completed the five core workshops within a six-month period—will receive a certificate as well as free theater, movie and dinner passes that have been donated for this purpose.

The next workshop in the series is "The Nutrition Difference: Nutrition & Exercise" is scheduled for Tuesday Nov. 14. Other workshops—"elective programs"—are also offered regularly on such topics as "Stop Smoking, Self Hypnosis and Safer Sex."

These and other workshops and activities are sponsored by AIDS Foundation Houston and a variety of other organizations. They are summarized in a monthly calendar published by Body Positive/Houston called 'Positively.' For more information, please contact body Positive at 623-6796.

Gay Vets and Vets Day

The Venture-N, 2923 Main St, will be the site of Veterans Day observances for the Houston Gay/Les/TG/Bi Chapter of the Gay, Les & Bi Veterans of America Saturday, (tomorrow) beginning with a formal meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Special recognition will go the World War II Vets prior to a general celebration with the Venture-N staff and GLBVA members and recruits.

This is the first official event of the newly reformed Houston Chapter and co-chairpersons, Denise and Charles will be greeting prospective members and handing out literature after the formal meeting and through-out the evening.

Regular monthly meeting are held the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Venture-N. For more information contact Charles at 951-9925 or fax Denise at 568-6018.

Tour Downtown

The American Institute of Architects will be hosting a walking tour of architectural highlights in downtown Houston Sunday Nov. 12. beginning at 2:00 p.m. and lasting approximately two hours.

This street level, guided, walking tour covers more than 50 buildings and public spaces in the downtown area and will start and end in the lobby of the Hyatt Regency Hotel, 1200 Louisiana Street. Cost is $3 for adults and children under 12 are not charged. Reservations are required.

Additionally, the guidebook "Houston's Galley of Architecture" normally $8.95, will be available for only $7 on the tour. For reservations, please call the Reservation line at 622-6261.

LIB to feature Marketing

The Lesbians in Business (LiB) monthly meeting will feature Suzanne Anderson discussing Marketing of your business, your organization and yourself Nov. 17 beginning at 6:00 p.m. at Innova, 20 Greenway Plaza.

Suzanne is the owner/broker of Suzanne Anderson Properties and has been repeatedly recognized as one of the leading lesbian business owner/operators in America today. She will talk about where to put available marketing dollars if those dollars are severely limited.

Also to be discussed are the three most important things to do to market anything successfully, as many of the same rules apply for marketing whether you are promoting your business, your organization or yourself. Basic do's and don't integral for success will be covered.

Bering Piano Workshop

A workshop, "how to play the piano in three hours," will be given at Bering Day Care Center Monday Nov. 13 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Nationally acclaimed Tony Pryor and Lavina Petersen will be demonstrating and teaching the secret of how to play piano without reading lots of notes. Class materials are very accessible and practical, and allow a person with little or no experience to start on the road to—and ultimately achieve—professional playing skills.

Many students have no prior knowledge, but it does not hinder learning. Students will learn how to use chords instead of traditional note by note reading. Students will learn to use sheet music in an entirely new way that is extremely simple and they'll discover many of the magical shortcuts that professionals use to enhance their playing.

Tuition of $40 and $35 for workbooks and tapes will be used in part to benefit the Bering Community Service Foundation. Scholarship assistance is available. For more information please contact Lavina Petersen at 683-0840.

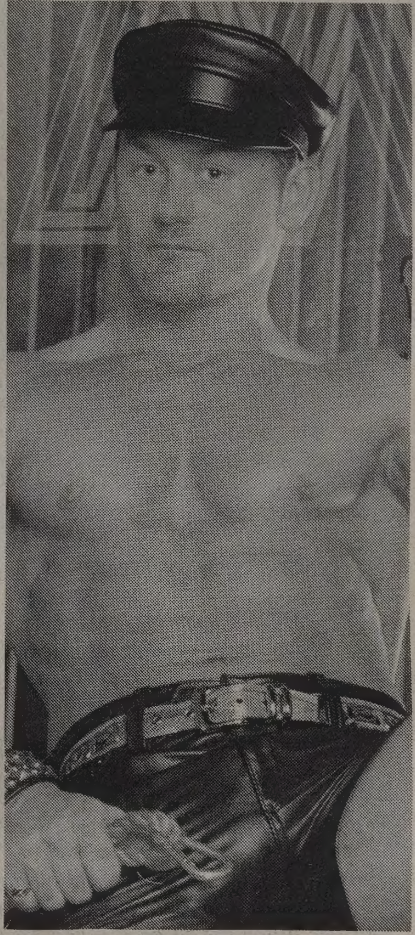
HIV+ Positive Living

Designed to assist individuals living with HIV, a free of charge symposium, "New Concepts for Excelling in '95; Complementary Therapies in HIV Disease" is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 18 at the Doubletree Hotel, 400 Dallas St., from 2:00 till 5:00 p.m.

The symposium will address :Why is energy level so important? How does energy level affect quality of life sex drive, and mental clarity? What is the relationship between energy level and overall immune function? Does the research data support a connection between normal hemoglobin level and longevity?

The back page advertisement of this paper is for this meeting.

All patients affected with HIV are encouraged to attend. Registration begins at 1:30 p.m. and seating is limited. To reserve space Steve Nettles at 520-2000 ext. 227.



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A still-relevant icon visits Houston

Betty Friedan On Feminist History, Beijing And The 'Fountain Of Age'

By RAYMOND TERRY

For the Houston Voice

The speaker chided many younger women today for the oft-used statement, "I'm not a feminist. I just don't care about those things." She said: "They are too busy making policy rather than coffee. They have careers. They decide perhaps not to marry. They put off motherhood until the last nanosecond. They are...well, liberated women. They are...well, products of the feminist movement(s) of thirty years ago. Their goals are so much a part of the American fabric of 1995 that the origins are blurred to them."

If the connection escaped even some in the attentive audience last Thursday, it was perfectly clear to the speaker, Betty Friedan.

They arrived three, four, five in vans from the burbs. Some chartered a bus. Female couples in Reeboks driving shiny Datsuns with Rainbow stickers vied for parking spaces with Lincolns and Caddies. Inside the University of Houston Hilton ballroom the SRO crowd included silk dresses, jeans cum back—packs, traditional Muslim attire, and the Sears Set. White. Brown. Oriental. Just about all the groups. (But, regrettably, no Blacks).

The vast majority of those present had probably followed Friedan from the early days. They came to see one of the prominent women of the 60's in real life. They were not disappointed. From a seated position she held the room in the palm of her hand for well over an hour. There was no talking. No fidgeting. Really, very little movement. Her bon mots were rapid and riveting. She's good. Very good.

Friedan's book *The Feminine Mystique,* written over 30 years ago, challenged the then-perception of women. The term "career woman" was downright ugly. She was fired when she became pregnant with her second child and made to feel guilty because of it.

She wrote an article as a freelance writer during her pregnancy in answer to the question, "Why is there a woman problem?" The answer given was "They're too educated." Her article stated that women were not limited by their education as much as by the definition of womanhood. Needless to say, she could not get it printed. Hence the Friedan phrase "...the problem with no name." Hence the beginning of the modern women's movement in this country.

Friedan was among the founders of the National Organization for Women (NOW). The bra burnings (from which she abstained), the marches, the endless speeches, the tours, the teas, the bone-weary days culminated in the late 70's with the final enactment of many of the laws necessary to make the Women's Movement relevant. Other minorities would benefit from these women in the vanguard of liberation, not the least of which was the gay movement. The tools were there...they had but to use them.

We were sitting in the same room with an icon of the Women's Movement who then said "Mine was never a war of women against men...which, of course, put me at odds with the radicals." But this widowed grandmother went on to say her approach to life now is aimed at the "Fountain of Age."

"Stay in control of your life. Have choices. Accept change. Renew your goals." There is a spark in her voice. A bounce in her speech. This woman who was born one year after women won the right to vote is preaching a new gospel. "Growth and development can continue to the end of life. The meaning of life is what you do with your life. And it goes on to the next generation." The relatively new term for this is "generativity." She concluded that vein of thought with "We need a new vision of community. A new paradigm."

Friedan also related her experiences in attending the United Nations Women's Conferences. She said she has attended all of the conferences, from Copenhagen to New Delhi to Mexico City, and the one in Beijing was the most interesting. Why? For the first time, she noted, the delegates were WOMEN! In the past, the delegations were comprised of men who discussed topics deemed too boring or too sensitive for other arenas. She said, "The Chinese couldn't get the Olympics so they decided to host the UN Women's Meeting to focus on their giant strides in that area. They thought very few would be interested because they do not recognize women's problems in China. Boy, were they surprised."

Over 35,000 persons were turned away and denied visas to visit. The meeting place was moved far outside of Beijing, to a rural area near the Great Wall. Demonstrations were limited to a small baseball field nowhere near the meetings. Tents to accommodate 40 had over 400 show up for seminars. Food was a problem. Communication was difficult; host cooperation was nil, recounted Friedan. In spite of the challenges, however, "We survived and prospered."

The media made the difference. The whole world saw what was happening. Events were beamed into living rooms, lunchrooms, and boardrooms throughout the world. The proverbial cat was out of the bag and in the Chinese government's lap. "Beijing represented the coming of age for the next major market group...the 39 to 79 year olds. A slight chuckle rippled across the crowd, however, neither Friedan's tone nor eye contact waivered. "This emerging group of men and women are entering or are in the final third of life and will move into the fountain of age. It is our responsibility to those who will come after us to keep our values."

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HIV clinical trials in Houston

The Houston Clinical Research Network and The Baylor College of Medicine have announced unrelated clinical evaluations beginning immediately.

Baylor's study will evaluate combination drug therapy for HIV+ individuals with CD4 cell counts between 200 and 500 and no prior antiretroviral therapy while the HCRN study will look at a potential anti-HIV therapy known as hydroxyurea in individuals with CD4 counts below 500.

In the Baylor study, all lab tests, clinic visits, drugs, etc., are free. All patients will receive AZT, DDI and either nevirapine, 3TC or placebo. Two-thirds of all patients will receive an active third drug. For more information and details, please contact Joan Wilson at 798-4720.

The HCRN study of hydroxyurea, which may have a different way of fighting HIV than drugs like AZT, ddI, ddC and d4T, will be open to persons who either have not started anti-HIV treatments or who would be willing to go off such treatments for six weeks prior to entering the study.

Persons who participate in the HCRN trial will be studied for twelve weeks to determine if hydroxyurea lowers the amount of HIV in the blood and to document any safety concerns. Hydroxyurea is not a new drug and has been used in combination, but many questions need clarity.

For more information on the HCRN study, please contact Steve Nettles at 520-2000.

THRF hosts Gay Leadership Summit

Houston Leaders Agree to Continue Dialogue

(HOUSTON)—The Texas Human Rights Foundation (THRF) recently brought together over a dozen leaders from the Houston gay and lesbian community at a first—time meeting dubbed the Kellett Symposium. Co-sponsored by the African American Lesbian/Gay Organization (AALGO), the symposium sought to encourage greater communication among Houston's gay leadership.

"The gay and lesbian community can derive great strength from its diversity, but only if we maintain strong communication among our leaders," stated Michael Garbarino, executive director of THRF. "The first Kellett Symposium opened the lines of communication. At next year's meeting we'll build on that initial success."

THRF brought the meeting participants together with the goal of achieving greater understanding of diverse community interests. Participants unanimously cited the importance of working together, and agreed to meet again early next year. Several AALGO officers, including Steve Walker, president, participated in the event. Although the event took place days before the OJ Simpson verdict or the Million Man March, much of the discussion centered on race relations. "It was as if the participants anticipated that the issue was about to explode onto the national scene," stated Michael Reese, THRF director of education.

"Bringing black and white leaders together to the same table is a giant step for the Houston gay community," said Donald Skipwith, THRF board president. "I'm excited by the commitment shown by these leaders and look forward to working with them throughout the year."

The event was named the Kellett Symposium in honor of the John Steven Kellett Foundation, which saw the need and underwrote the costs of the meeting. Attendees unanimously agreed that the symposium was a productive way to keep informed on group strategy. HIV educator Bart Loeser noted that in 20 years there had been only two town meetings for the gay community in Houston.

THRF Vice President Sue Lovell echoed that sentiment: "These meetings bring us together and working together builds coalitions. That's how gays and lesbians will make political progress." THRF has scheduled a follow-up meeting for early next year, and encourages all Houston gay and lesbian leaders to participate. Interested participants should contact THRF at (800) 828-6417.

THRF is the state's oldest gay and lesbian advocacy organization, and the first to provide legal services to Texans with AIDS. THRF's mission is to end discrimination based on sexual orientation or HIV status through litigation, education and legal services.

The African-American Lesbian/Gay Organization was formed to promote pride in the bisexual, gay, lesbian and transgendered community.

The Kellett Foundation is a private, nonprofit, grant-making organization founded to make funding available to other nonprofit groups that work to achieve equal rights for gay men and lesbians.

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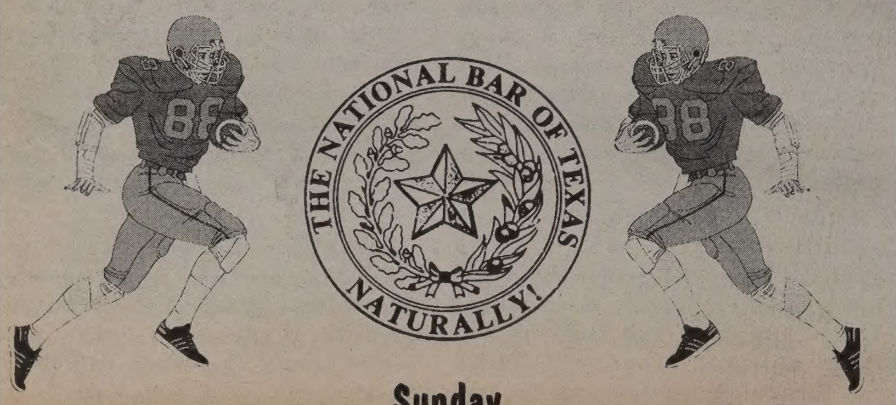
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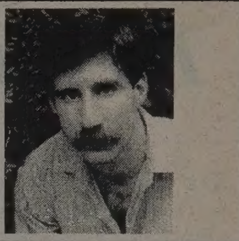
Gay Today

by Glen Webber



Bound By Feelings, and Unanswered Questions

One afternoon, while I was in the *Voice* office, the phone rang. It was a woman on the line, who said she had just gotten into town that morning. She had received a call the day before, letting her know that her brother, Greg, was gravely ill. The caller refused to give her any details over the phone, but said it was important that she come to Houston.

When she got to the hospital, the caller related, she found out for the first time that her brother was gay...and that he was dying of AIDS. The reason she called me, she said, was that she had noticed a copy of the *Voice* laying on a table and saw my column. She didn't know anyone else to call.

When I walked into the lobby area on the floor of the hospital where her brother's room was, I saw her. She was a slight woman, close to middle age, nice looking. Her face was puffy from crying. When she saw me, she gave me the most desperate hug I've ever had. She was desperate for answers to so many questions, the first one being. "Why didn't he tell me he was gay?" I didn't have an answer for her. I think, though, it was for the same reason a lot of sons and siblings don't tell their families: fear. The fear of rejection, the fear of being harshly judged, the fear of being thrown out of the family. I know too many gay men and women who haven't been able to go home, to celebrate holidays or just go back and sleep in the room that was their world growing up.

The worst was to come. She had called her mother and told her to come down. She asked me to be with her when she told her mother that her son was dying from AIDS. I said yes. While I wasn't sure I should get involved, I realized they had no one else to help them. When the mother arrived, she had that look of puzzlement on her face. The sister introduced me, then we all sat down. The mother asked what was going on. When she said "Greg is dying of AIDS." the mother exclaimed. "I didn't know Greg was gay. I didn't know he was sick. Why didn't he tell us?"

I tried to comfort them both. To see Greg's mom so devastated was killing me. She was crying on my shoulder, in total bewilderment. Her loving son was dying, and there was nothing she could do about it. The doctor showed up about a half hour later, and took the mother and sister into Greg's room. I waited out on the sofa, emotionally drained. About an hour later, out came Greg's mom. By then, I knew her by her name, Beverly. Greg's sister was named Betty. Beverly came over to me. We once again hugged and sat down.

I didn't know Greg. I had never met him. I didn't know anything about him. But I've know many gay men who have died from AIDS. We all have. Greg could have been anybody I've ever met. Beverly said she held Greg's hand. Even though he was unconscious, she felt him squeeze it. She smiled and said, "He knew I was there. He knew his mother was there to love him and protect him."

We talked a lot about Greg. He was an athletic boy. He loved baseball and swimming. He had blond hair, and, Beverly said, "the deepest blue eyes you could imagine." When he went into high school, he had grown to over six foot tall and was filling out due to exercise and weights. In high school, Greg had excelled in baseball, taking his team to a district final one year. He was very popular and loved. When I asked about his girlfriends, she said,"He was so busy, he didn't have time to date. Looking back, I think it should have been a clue. But who would have thought about that in a small midwestern town?"

For a week, Greg's condition was stabilized. Every night, Beverly or Betty called and kept me informed. We also went to dinner several times. They had been staying at Greg's apartment. It was a typical apartment with family pictures on the wall. They slept in his bed, and felt very close to him. Betty and Beverly felt Greg might actually get better, but I knew he wouldn't. I just had that feeling.

One night, very late, Beverly called. Greg was dying. His vital signs were fading. Could I come to the hospital? I said yes. I sat out in the lobby waiting, and about 2:30 a.m., out came the ladies. Greg had died. Beverly said that a minute before he died, he squeezed her hand. She said he was saying goodbye. I understood. They were both devastated and relieved. No more tears could flow for now.

The three of sat there silently, and I thought of all my friends that have died-George, Kelse, Dr. John, Norman, Michael, and so many others. I felt the pain all over again. It really hurt. When I wiped away a tear, Betty said, "Go ahead and cry. It's all right."

A week later I got a nice long letter from Betty. They had the funeral on a Saturday. Almost all of Greg's friends from childhood were there. The preacher gave an impassioned sermon. She said he was devastated. After the funeral, he went in his office and cried. She said he cried for hours. He had never met anyone who had died from AIDS. He had no idea how cruel the disease was. He baptized Greg 35 years ago, and now he was burying him. He saw the body, weathered by disease, the face of an old man. Those pretty blue eyes, empty. According to Betty, he swore he would never bad mouth gays, and that the church would start an AIDS education program. He said no one should die like that.

I sent Betty a little poem I wrote. She put it in Greg's coffin. She wanted Greg to take it with him on his next journey. I'd like to share it with you, if I may. *"I finally got to touch the clouds, to dance among the stars. I finally got to see the sun, its warmth a friendly touch. And as I go, I'm glad to know, my journey will not be alone."* Betty and Beverly have invited me up to the small town to visit. They want to thank me properly for my support. I'll probably go. I feel like I lost a friend when Greg died, and I also want to say goodbye. I'm hurting too. Even though we never met, I feel like I've lost someone I've known forever.

TELL US HOW WE'RE DOING!

The HOUSTON VOICE is your Voice in Houston, and we value your input and suggestions. Write us at 811 Westheimer, Suite 105, Houston TX 77006 (Fax: 529-9531) to tell us what you like and don't like or to share your own creative ideas. (Please indicate if your letter is for input only, as we also receive numerous letters for publication).

THE OUTsider

by Curt Morrison

Tragedy On The Path To Peace

If recent conversations with friends and associates is any indication, then it would appear as though conventional wisdom dictates that members of the gay and lesbian community are not interested in foreign affairs or policy. For that reason, I have focused my column on domestic policy. That is, until now. Last week's tragic assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, Prime Minister of Israel, was the catalyst that changed my mind.

Yitzhak Rabin was arguably the most significant player in the quest for a lasting Peace initiative in the volatile Middle East. The effect that his death will have upon the continuation of the exhausting peace process remains to be seen. The polemics of the entire region are deeply rooted and the negotiations precarious at best. Rabin's legacy will be Peace. It was the definitive force that motivated him and it would be tragic indeed if this heinous act ends up being the culprit that nullifies the armistice, denigrates Rabin's legacy and hinders the peace process.

Throughout his entire career Yitzhak Rabin conquered surmountable odds. He rose through the ranks of the Israeli military apparatus with an uncanny ability to assess clandestine maneuvers and operations. He was instrumental in Israel's success in the 1967 war which catapulted him to his first reign as Israeli Prime Minister during the 1970's. It was his second reign as Prime Minister that brought him a chance to pursue his dream of peace and Rabin demonstrated no hesitancy in his ability to seize the moment. He was forthright, powerful, persuasive and above all a man of his word. He even developed admiration from some of his most formidable foes such as Yasir Arafat and King Hussein.

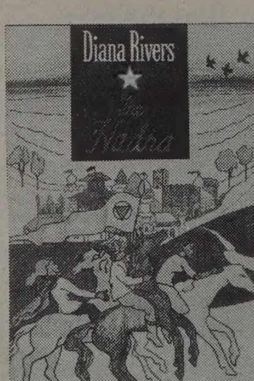
President Clinton lead the U.S. delegation to Rabin's funeral. He was accompanied by former President's Carter and Bush. In addition, Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole and Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich were in attendance. The impact that Yitzhak Rabin had on the world leaders who attended his funeral was apparent and poignant. His pertinacious dedication and commitment to peace, at his own peril, was unsurpassed and his successes were tantamount to his conviction of the necessity of lasting peace for his country and its people.

To be sure, the Middle East peace process has been contentious and dilatory. From the Historic Camp David accords, at the behest of President Jimmy Carter, to the 1993 handshake between Rabin and PLO Chairperson Yasir Arafat, the entire process has been mired in extremist controversy and rhetoric. Shimon Peres, Israel's interim Prime Minister until next Octobers elections has vowed to continue Rabin's legacy with a dogged determination including the continuation of reaching some sort of concessions from Syria, which is integral to any peace initiative with hopes of long lasting success.

Yitzhak Rabin and the Jewish populace's quest for a peaceful existence has long been an anathema to the Middle East region. President Clinton has promised to use the power of his pulpit to keep the pressure on whomever necessary to keep the peace process moving forward. It is in our own vital interests for national security that we maintain a presence in the Middle East.

There are many parallels the plight of the Jews and other oppressed communities. Our own community has had to combat prejudice and consternation. Not to the extent that the Jewish community has, but unacceptance nevertheless. We as a community could learn from the path that Yitzhak Rabin took. He overcame obstacles and confronted his enemies with benevolence and succeeded in areas that were unfathomable just a decade earlier. If our community were to let the American public and the religious right know that we are not the stereotypical child-molesters and promiscuous nymphomaniacs that we are perceived to be, perhaps we could make more inroads towards peace in our own communities. Spewing vicious rhetoric at protest rallies and dressing in attire that lends credibility to our enemies' perceptions of us does nothing to enhance our cause. Indeed, it simply separates us further and causes deeper divisions. In addition, it makes us no better than the religious right fanatics we so abhor, if anything, and it puts us on the same par. We need effective leadership in our community who will champion the cause of equal rights, convey the message that we do not seek "special rights," and focus on our desire for mere acceptance in a respectful and responsible manner.

Yitzhak Rabin will have a long lasting legacy as history is recorded. The fruits of his labor have yet to be determined. He is a Nobel laureate for Peace who will reverberate in the minds of many for years to come. He was above all a truly great man. May he rest in Peace.



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Gay group's attempt for university recognition creates conflict

FORT WORTH, Texas, Tuesday, Oct. 31 (AP)—A homosexual student group's attempt to gain official recognition at Texas Wesleyan University has stirred controversy at the Methodist-affiliated school.

The group, known as Gays, Lesbians and Extras, won approval several weeks ago from the Student Government Association and a Student Life Committee, but Texas Wesleyan President Jake Schrum vetoed the decision, citing a conflict with United Methodist doctrine.

Since Schrum's ruling was announced Oct. 5, the issue has stirred debate across campus. Strongly worded letters on both sides have been printed on the opinion page of the student newspaper. Each side has accused the other of being closed-minded and un-Christian.

The controversy reflects the ongoing debate within the United Methodist Church over how to treat homosexuality, an issue that is expected to surface again in April when the church holds its quadrennial general conference in Denver.

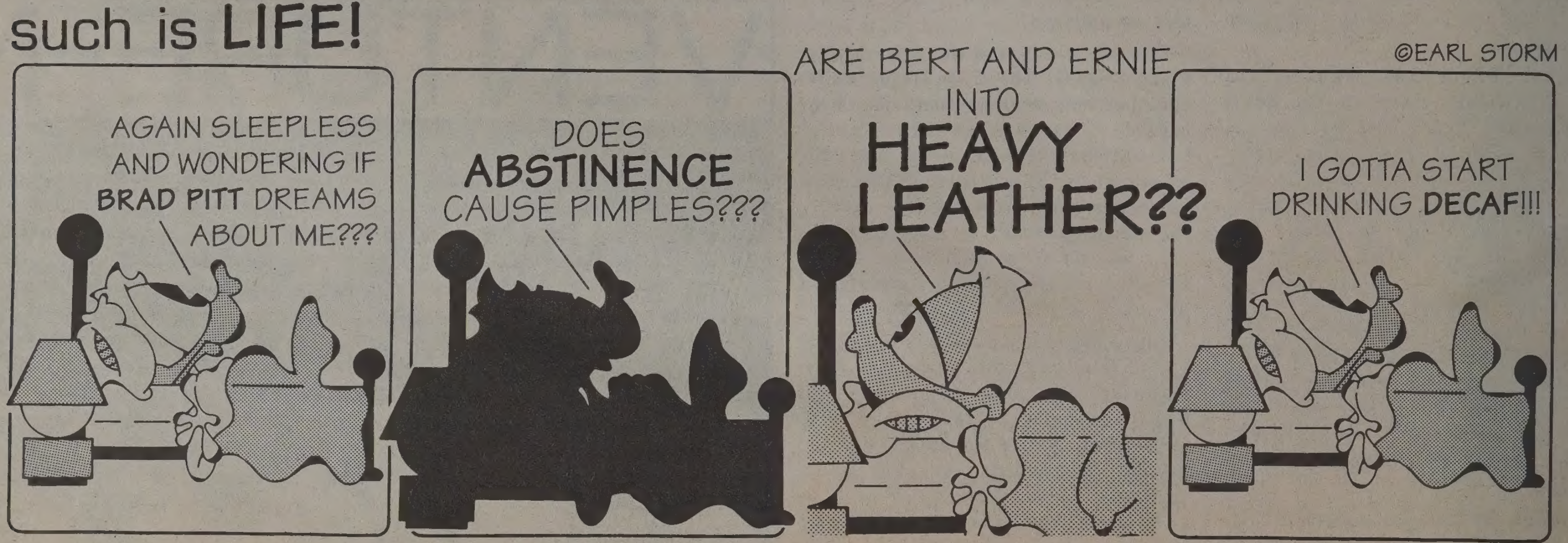
About 900 of the 3000 U.S. colleges and universities have homosexual student organizations, according to the National Lesbian & Gay Task Force. A spokesperson for the United Methodist Church said he does not know how many of the nation's 120 Methodist-affiliated colleges and universities have recognized gay organizations.

The student government at Southern Methodist University in Dallas granted a charter to a club for gay and lesbian students in 1991, and a similar group exists at Southwestern University, a Methodist school in Georgetown.

In a statement explaining his decision, Schrum said he encouraged "the university community to respect the rights and dignity of all people."

But he said that, because the United Methodist Church does not sanction homosexuality or fund gay groups, the university "will not officially authorize, sanction or fund any campus group that avows homosexuality."

The United Methodist Book of Discipline calls the practice of homosexuality "incompatible with Christian teaching" but it also commits the church to support the basic human rights of all individuals.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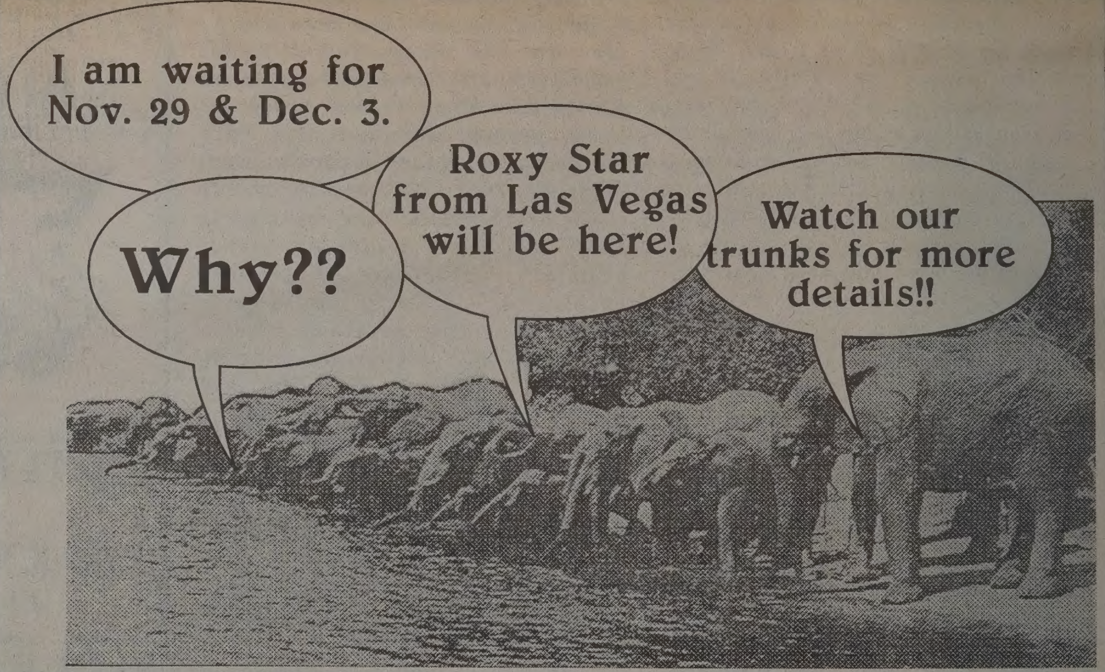
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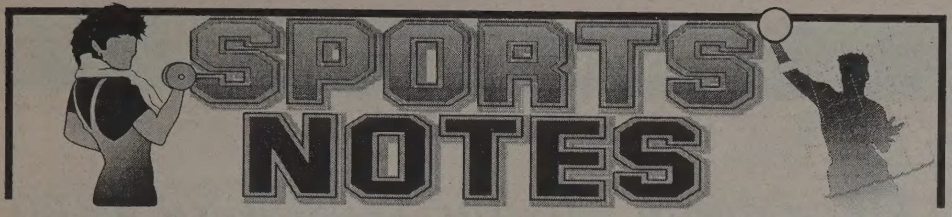

SPORTS NOTES

HouTex Tournament is this weekend

Friday marks the opening of HouTex XV, the Houston Tennis Club's annual tennis tournament. This year's event is notable for being the largest gay tennis event ever held in the state of Texas, with over 200 gay and lesbian players from all over the U.S., Puerto Rico, and Canada traveling here to compete in 22 different events. The festivities get underway tonight with a party at KAD's to welcome players, but tournament action does not begin until tomorrow morning at Memorial Park and Southwest Tennis Center. Play will continue Saturday at the Southwest site, and all finals will be held there Sunday.

For those interested in watching tennis, matches will begin at 8:00 a.m. and finish around 6:00 p.m. every day. There will also be a party at J.R.'s Friday night for those who might want to watch tennis players doing something besides hitting a ball.

HTC hopes to be able to donate even more money than last year to AIDS charities and the Lesbian Health Initiative, due in part to the generosity of sponsors Whole Foods, Advance-Damron Travel, Swilley-Hudson Realtors, Christy & Associates, and the Parks and Recreation Department of the City of Houston.

MSI's Fall League drawing to a close

The Montrose Softball League's (MSL) Fall League continued on Sunday, Nov. 5, even though the weather was chilly! With the previous week's action canceled because of rain, we are making the most of this short season.

The Blue Team forfeited both of their games on Sunday, first to the Red Team and then to the Purple Team. The Orange Team forfeited to the Red Team, but came back to defeat the Yellow Team. The Green Team beat the Yellow Team and the Purple Team.

The standings in the Fall League are as follows: Orange 5-1; Red, 5-1; Green, 4-2; Blue, 2-4; Purple, 1-5; Yellow, 0-6.

Please join us on our final day of play in the Fall League, Sunday, Nov. 12 at Tim Hearn Field (corner of Jackson Hill & Waugh off of Memorial Drive) for the following games: 11:00 a.m., Yellow vs. Blue; 12:00 p.m., Purple vs. Orange; 1:00 p.m., Red vs. Yellow.

5-K Run to Benefit Omega House

Throngs of runners, walkers, skaters and wheelchair athletes are expected to participate in the Alpha to Omega 5K Fun Run that begins at 7:30 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 18. Athletes will meet at the Sabine Bridge off Memorial Drive near downtown Houston. All proceeds from this event will benefit Omega House, a local nonprofit AIDS hospice.

Registration forms are available at Run Sport, 2137 Richmond, and at the event. The $15 fee includes an official Alpha to Omega T-shirt. Prizes will be awarded to the first-place finisher in each of eight divisions.

On the day of the event, wheelchair athletes and skaters will start at 7:30 a.m., runners at 7:45 a.m. and walkers at 7:50 a.m. All participants should arrive 30 minutes before their scheduled start time. Upon finishing the run, participants will be treated to a party with free refreshments and booths representing local organizations.

Sponsors of the Alpha to Omega 5k Fun Run include radio station 107.5 FM "The Buzz," Coors Light, the Houston Chronicle, Great Earth Vitamins, Run Sport, Escalante's Mexican Grille and Insomnia Coffee Bar in Deep Ellum, Dallas. For more information, call Run Sport at 524-6662 or the run hotline at 688-3773.

Bowling News

The Inner Loop Sunday Evening Mixed League reports that their Place 1 is occupied by Team 5. Second place in the league this week is Sticky Wickets, followed in third place by Gutter Sluts? High Scratch game of 243 was bowled by Rick Keister and series of 648 was bowled by Ralph Sikes for the men. For the women, Diann Thomason bowled game of 200 and series of 565. For more information on this league, call Tom at 522-9612.

The Montrose Monday Night Men's League reports the first three places in Division A are taken by Dem Damn Dawgs, the Queen Sick Court and Party of Four; Division B is headed by 9 Dirty, Tennis Anyone? and Somebody Ate My Duck Sausage. High Scratch game of 258 and series of 684 was bowled by Tom Bente. For more information, call Gardy at 641-5424.

The Monday Night Women's League reports first place is taken by In The House, second by TAZ Club, third by Lesberados and fourth by Maybe, Maybe Not. For more info, call Pat at 437-6218.

The Wednesday Night Mixers report first place team is To Wong Foo: Thanks for Nothing, second place is Fish and Whips and third is 3 Tops and a Bottom. High Scratch game of 227 and series of 643 was bowled by Mace Adams for the men. For the women, Terry Shannon bowled 177 and series of 499. League information is available from Tom at 522-9612.

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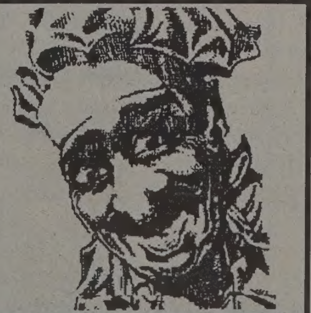

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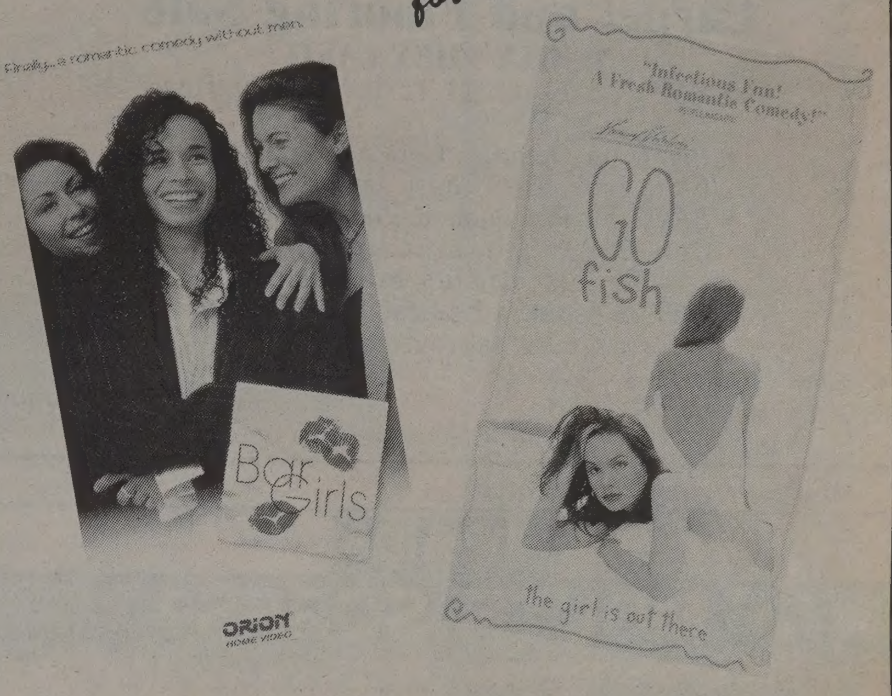
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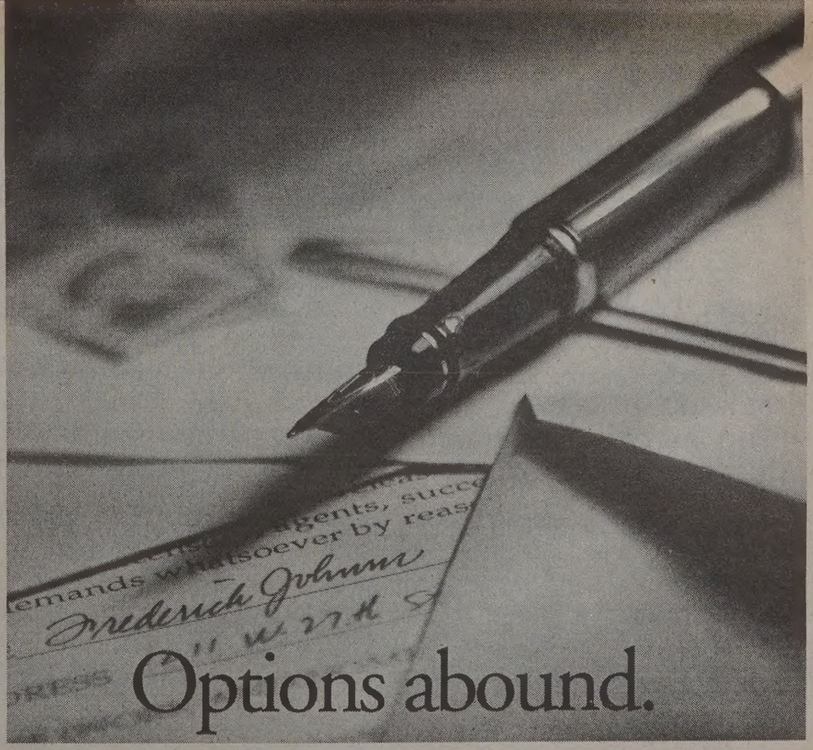

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ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT

Once again, 'tis the season for Tuna

Jaston Williams (L) and Joe Sears

Get out your plastic poinsettia earrings and dust off the Andy Williams Christmas albums; the Yuletide approacheth in Tuna, Texas, where the worst of the holiday spirit is zestfully celebrated in the return of the irreverent hit comedy, *A Tuna Christmas*, starring the Tony Award-nominated Joe Sears and Jaston Williams. Showing in the Brown Theater, Wortham Center, Nov. 15—19, "A Tuna Christmas" is a non-subscription special of the 1995-96 American Express Houston Broadway Series.

A sequel to the Off-Broadway hit, *Greater Tuna,* which has become one of the most oft-produced shows in America, *A Tuna Christmas* features the two actors making lightning-fast costume changes in order to play all 22 inhabitants (male and female) of Tuna, the third smallest burg in Texas. And Christmas in Tuna is nothing to sing hymns about; the annual Yard Display Contest is being sabotaged by a phantom, the Smut Snatchers are trying to censor "Silent Night" on the grounds that decent people don't sing about "round young virgins," and the Tuna Little Theater's Christmas Show is being artily staged by a temperamental director who snaps when his artistic vision is challenged.

Those familiar with Greater Tuna will find the town has remained a hotbed of conservatism, where the Lion's Club is too liberal, every pickup truck boasts a gun rack and bouffant hairdos continue to reign as the height of fashion. Among the characters still toiling in Tuna are matriarch Berth Bumiller who, between her surly twins Stanley and Charlene (he's on probation and she's got a crush on a "sissy" stage director), and her philandering husband (whom she confides is "more useless than ice trays in hell"), can barely find time to trim the tree and bake the clown cookies. Also back is cat-eyed Vera Carp, who is confident she will win the Yuletide Yard Display Contest for the 15th Yule in a row, and Didi Snavely, whose Used Weapon Emporium boosts last-minute shopping with the slogan, "Wouldn't you rather shoot someone that watch them run off with your new toaster?," as well as Aunt Pearl Burras, Petey Fiske, OKKK radio hosts Arles Struvie and Thurston Wheelis, and the UFO-sighting R.R. Snavely.

New inhabitants include two Tasty Kreme waitresses who shoot-from-the-hip and dress to kill, a hypoglycemic little theater director whose past triumphs include an all-white *Raisin in the Sun* and the iron-haired, penny-pinching city secretary Dixie Deberry. As the New York Times noted, "Grovers Corner this ain't."

A Tuna Christmas premiered in San Francisco in 1989 and has since played in cities across the country. When it arrived in New York last December, The New York Times declared it was about time, adding, "There's no reason Broadway shouldn't be let in on the fun." The production enjoyed a sold-out run at the Booth Theatre.

This production of *A Tuna Christmas* features original settings by Loren Sherman, costumes by Linda Fisher, lighting by Root Choyce and sound design by Ken Huncovsky. The two stars, Joe Sears and Jaston Williams, have portrayed the inhabitants of Tuna since 1982 in several national tours of *Greater Tuna* and *Tuna Christmas*. Their unanimously excellent critical reception has captured them raves from The New York Times, Washington Post, San Francisco Chronicle, Boston Herald, USA Today, and Variety among others. The production also earned Sears and Williams two invitations to perform in the Bush White House.

Joe Sears, in addition to his Tony nomination for Best Actor, gas received three nominations for the Helen Hayes Award for Best Actor, and a Los Angeles Dramalogue Award, for his roles in the two shows. Jaston Williams has also earned a Helen Hayes Award nomination.

The Tuna antics have become one of the most loved of Houston Christmas traditions. Though only mid-November, the bells are jingling in Tuna. Pull out the polyester and merry tuna to all.

(Editor's Note: "An Evening of Tuna," a benefit for the Houston NAMES Project featuring Sears and Williams, will take place Wednesday, Nov. 15 at Rich's. For more information, please refer to the advertisement on Page 8).

KEEP US POSTED!

Send your organization's news and meeting information to the HOUSTON VOICE for our Community Calendar and Bulletin Board. 811 Westheimer, Suite 105/Houston, TX. 77006; Fax 529-9531; Phone 529-8490.

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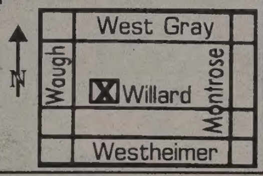

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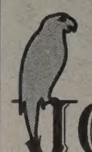

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VOLUNTEERS needed to provide companionship for Residents of Milam House, a residential facility for Persons Living with AIDS. Plan to participate in the next Volunteer Training, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1995, 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. To sign up for further info. call 526-8470.

COMMUNITY GOSPEL CHURCH

501 E. 18th at Columbia • Houston, Texas

Services:

*** Sun. • 11:00 A.M.**
PRAISE & WORSHIP

Sun. • 7:00 P.M.
EVENING SERVICE

Thurs • 7:30 P.M.
MIDWEEK SERVICE

Pastor - Chris Chiles
(713) 880-9235

"A Church Built On Love"

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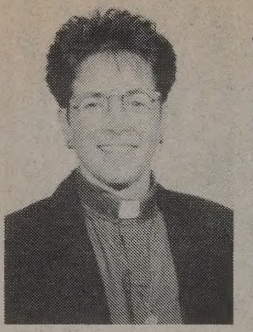
ASK THE PASTOR



Rev. Janet Parker

Q: "Is masturbation sinful?"

A: In our human body are many appetites. We have an appetite for food/drink, for warmth and affection, for companionship, and for sexual fulfillment, to name a few. It is natural for these appetites to be satisfied in a healthy, wholesome way. For instance, eating is a normal appetite. To eat from the basic food groups in a balanced way would be the ideal plan. Most of us strive to do this, but we sometimes fail and seek the "comfort" foods such as potato chips, ice cream, cookies, etc.

As with any normal appetite we must try and maintain a healthy balance.

Regarding the sexual needs of the body, there are probably many different views on this subject of masturbation. Because the history of the church has shown a negative view of sex, it has tended to take a strong stance on masturbation as being sinful. Let me give you a little background to understand more clearly where the church would be coming from. The only Scripture that makes any reference to masturbation is found in the Old Testament in Genesis. It is actually called "Onanism." There was a man named Onan who had a brother who died. It was customary that if a man died without his wife having children, the brother of the man who died would lay with his dead brother's wife so that she could conceive and carry on the family name. Onan did lay with her, but during intercourse spilled his "seed" or semen on the ground. As a result of this he died.

It was understood in Old Testament times that the man produced the offspring alone. The woman was simply the vessel that bore the child. They did not understand the concept of an egg and a sperm coming together for conception. For the man to spill his seed was to literally let go of a life. It was viewed as an abominable behavior.

Unfortunately masturbation has gotten a bad name from this incident. "Onanism" is viewed as having the pleasure of intercourse without procreation.

Masturbation is not "Onanism." Masturbation is not about refusing to have a child, or procreate. Masturbation is simply accommodating the body's natural appetite for sexual release. Children when they are first discovering their body will fondle their genitals and get excited. It is a normal happening.

Where sin enters the picture is determined by how healthy our sexual appetite is. Any appetite can turn into an addiction. A person can become addicted to any behavior. We know it is an addiction when it happens on a routine basis and we are unable to stop. For instance, you masturbate occasionally for sexual release at home. You then find yourself looking at pornographic material and take a movie home with you. You begin to enjoy it and before long you are hooked. It becomes a way of life. Your mind is filled with thoughts of being with many different people. Your language becomes full of sexual innuendoes. The behavior and thoughts of masturbation begin to take you over. This is where it becomes a sexual addition and enters the realm of sin. Sin is anything that has control over us apart from God.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ASK THE PASTOR A QUESTION, WRITE:REV. JANET PARKER, MARANANTHA FELLOWSHIP MCC, P.O. BOX 667032, HOUSTON, TX. 77266-7932

CHURCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FRIDAY - 11/10

* CODA meets at MCCR at 7:00 p.m. Call 861-9149.

* "Your Sacred Self" - study group using the best seller by Wayne Dyer. COME learn more about your sacred self, sacred sisters and brothers, and the sacred, loving Creator God who made it so. Kingdom Community Church. 4404 Blossom. Call 862-7533.

* Catholic Mass at 10:00 a.m. Kolbe House. 1509 Fairview. Call 522-8182

SUNDAY - 11/12

* Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection(MCCR) worship services. 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. 1919 Decatur. Call 861-9149.

* Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church Services at 10:00 a.m. New Location 3400 Montrose Suite 600. Call 528-6756.

* Community Gospel Church worship service at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. 501 E. 18th. Call 880-9235.

* Houston Mission Church worship service at 11:00 a.m. 1505 Nevada. Call 529-8225.

* Kingdom Community Church worship service at 11:00 a.m., Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. Call 862-7533.

* Dignity Houston Communion Service at 5:30 p.m. 1307 H Yale. Call 880-2872.

* Ecumenical Catholic Church Mass at 10:15. 1121 Welch. Call 526-8095.

MONDAY - 11/13

* MCCR Handbell Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 p.m. 1919 Decatur. Call 861-9149.

* Catholic Mass at 7:30 p.m. Kolbe House. 1509 Fairview. Call 522-8182.

* Sexual Addicts Anonymous support group meet at MCCR - 7:00p.m. Call 861-9149.

TUESDAY - 11/14

* MCCR: CODA Support group meets at 7:00 p.m., Empowerment for Living support group and pot luck dinner at 6:00 p.m., Gloryland Singers at 8:00 p.m., The Gospel Ensemble at 6:00 p.m. Call 861-9149.

* PROTECT meets at Bering Church. Call 520-7870.

* Basic Computer Skills Class at the Kolbe Project. Call 522-8182.

* Over Eaters Anonymous support group meets at MCCR - 6:00pm. Call 861-9149.

* Advent Scriptures for Gay/Lesbian Christians: 7:30 pm at Kolbe House. 1509 Fairview 522-8182

WEDNESDAY - 11/15

* MCCR: Bi-net Support Group meets at 7:00 p.m., Jubilation Mixed Ensemble meets at 6:30 p.m., Midweek uplift service at 7:00 p.m., Bible Study, Lecture Series and Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. 1919 Decauter. 861-9149.

* "A Course in Miracles" at Kingdom Community Church 7:30 p.m. Call 862-7533.

* Ecumenical Catholic Church Mass at 7:00 p.m. 1121 Welch. Call 526-8095.

* Catholic Mass at 8:30 a.m. Kolbe House 1509 Fairview. Call 522-8182.

THURSDAY - 11/16

* Community Gospel Church worship service. 7:30 p.m. 501 E. 18th. Call 880-9325.

ECUMENICAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

(Old Catholic Church of Utrecht)
1121 Welch Street
526-8095

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday	10:15 a.m.
Wednesday	7:00 p.m.
Holy Days	7:00 p.m

Healing Mass first Wednesday of every month.

Solemn Vespers every Wednesday before Mass and Scripture study every Wednesday after Mass.

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Sounds by Sam

Warrant Issued for Honesty

Disillusionment, false love, love gone bad, child abuse, one night stands, entangling affairs, confused entrapment...no, it's not another FOX soap opera, it's Warrant's new CD, *UltraPhobic*: "You speak from both sides of your mouth/I tried to work it out/You hated me all along/I tried to get along." These words open the new CD by Warrant; they're from the first song, *Undertow*. Those who know Warrant will be glad to read this. For those who have no idea what I'm babbling about, forget it...hard rock is too hard to explain.

For those who care, Warrant's new CD *UltraPhobic* is out, and in a word: HONEST. Yes, that's my word for this CD, honest. All through the collection of "heavy" songs, the powerful lyrics press forth and paint an astonishing picture of reality. It is almost in the same theme as Megadeath's *Countdown to Destruction*. For example, *Family Picnic*, the third song on the CD, focuses on child abuse, in both a physical and emotional way. "Battered dreams and broken bones/Living hell when he's at home...Some break away/Some chose to stay/But every scream kept inside/Leaves a scar either way."

Powerful and energetic ballads such as *Chameleon* the fifth song, again shows, in honest terms, that "you better find out which road your on..." and "if they gave you the world/You'd find something wrong with that." Musically, Chameleon is also well structured. It's a bit different than the heavier music that precedes it. *Crawl Space* expresses the trapped feeling you get...whenever you get "that 'trapped' feeling." (It's a simple song, really).

High is a love song (see the connection?). With songs like this, Warrant has proven it's ability to be versatile and flexible. The music is slightly heavy here, but the words and meaning make it one of the best overall songs. *UltraPhobic* is a song about being "shot down" and "broken to pieces/All over the ground." where as *High* was a love song, *UltraPhobic* is a "lost love" song, with allusions to Humpty Dumpty, but—heh—it works. Be careful with that song, there's more at the end after the song is done.

Ending the CD is the song *Stronger Now*, a light ballad that's really surprising for Warrant, and only again proves the versatility of Warrant. This is "lost love" song #2, where the man loves the woman, but she doesn't much care for him—that purely one-sided type of relationship.

As a whole, Warrant is surprisingly well put together. Within the CD, Warrant puts down the "Heavy Metal" identification tag and picks up the "soft ballad" label. It, as a whole, is a definite must for heavy metal/hard rock/thrash lovers. It's a little different than before, so don't be surprised, but it's not bad. On the scale of 1-10, I give it a 6 for its musical variety and it's powerful, honest lyrics. This CD holds nothing back, and neither should you if this is your type of thing.

Maine votes defeat anti-gay Question 1

(Continued from Page 1)

Opponents of the measure, who ranged from civil rights groups to the state's business community, argued the referendum would have promoted bigotry and hurt economic development by giving Maine a political black eye.

Supporters maintained during the campaign that the measure was needed to "prevent homosexuals from gaining 'special rights.'" The vague, oddly worded measure did not specifically mention gay or lesbian people, but would limited "protected classifications" in current and future state and local laws to ten specific categories, not including sexual orientation.

The law was defeated by a vote of 54 to 46 percent, adding weight to a perceived resistance against the conservative tide that was felt in national voting patterns Tuesday.

"Common sense and decency triumphed over extremism," said Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign, of the vote. "The vote in Maine is in keeping with the national trend."

The U.S. Supreme Court is debating whether a similar measure approved by Colorado in 1992 violates the right to equal protection. A ruling is expected next year.

Maine was the first Eastern state to vote on an anti-gay rights referendum. Although Colorado's measure was approved, initiatives were defeated in Idaho in 1994 and Oregon in 1992 and 1994.

TWO TEENAGERS IN TWENTY
edited by Ann Heron

These first-person accounts by some forty young people will ease the way for other teens exploring their sexual identity, while providing valuable insight for adults who want to support them.

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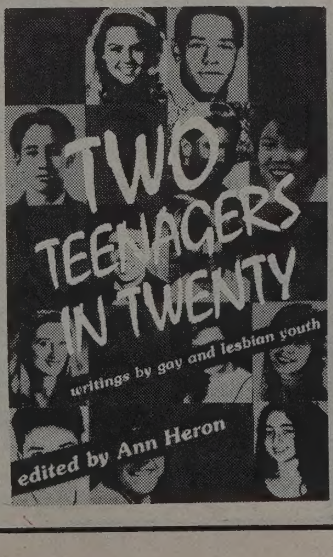

THE CLUB
HOUSTON

ex·traor·di·nar·y
(ek-stror'-de-ner'-e, ik-, ek'stre-or'-) adj.
1. Beyond what is ordinary, usual, or commonplace. 2. Exceeding the ordinary degree, amount, or extent; exceptional; remarkable.
Ex: An extraordinary private men's club.

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BriarPatch and Pacific Street Celebrate Anniversaries!

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Members of the Cajun Belle Fest.

Houston Soap, Part 1

By CAROLYN ROBERTS
Houston Voice/Houston

Past Events

The BriarPatch celebrated their 25th anniversary this past Sunday! Congrats to Wayne Gray and the staff for keeping it together so long!

Pacific Street celebrated their 4th anniversary this past weekend! Congrats to Jay Allen for your continued success!

A new Miss Lazy J was crowned this past Saturday night! Congrats to Tory Savage on winning this coveted title!

Friday, Nov. 10

Hot, horny, hard, husband-hunting, heady, hearty, he-man Boy Toys hit Gentry tonight from 6:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. High-tail it over and pay homage!

Happy hour at J.R's tonight features $3.75 Stoli and Skyy cocktails, hourly give aways, hors d' oeuvres and a host of some of Houston's hottest men!

Darlene at the Outpost pours a mean happy hour cocktail! Stop in and catch up on all the gossip!

Chances is a great place to start your weekend warm-up! They have shots of my friend Jose Cuervo for only $2 today and every day!

The Friday Follies take over Club 403 tonight. MC Jessica Van Shelton will present Roxanne Lee Love and Tory Savage. Show time is 10:30 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 11

Yes, Sir! The Military Ball marches to Rich's tonight. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. This year features "The Stars and Stripes Revue" stars: Mr. Gay All American 1996, Mr. Gay Freedom All American, Mr. Gay Pride All American. Entertainment will be provided by Miss Camp America Foundation, Krewe of Olympus, Diana Foundation, Rainbow Ranglers and the Four Seasons Club. Tickets are available at Lobo, the Ripcord, Basic Brothers, any Four Seasons member, or by calling 529-2011. They are $10. This benefits the Stone Soup Pantry.

Midnight maneuvers tonight at Pacific Street. There is no cover for men in uniform! Join NLA:H on the patio as they guest bartend! The doors open at 9:00 p.m., but the party lasts all night!

Join the Texas Renegades tonight on the patio of the Brazos River Bottom as they tend to your needs. They start about 9:30 p.m.

Looking for a place to take a cheap date... or take a date cheap? Head to Mary's, naturally, for $5.50 12 oz. T-bones and fixings, a free movie and 50¢ draft beer. All this and Scotty, too!

Jim Halbert, candidate for Emperor XII for the Royal, Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star, presents "Stuffing a Wild Turkey" tonight at the Venture-N. This show will benefit the Omega House. Show time is 10:00 p.m.

The Boy Toys wiggle their wienies tonight at Gentry starting at 10:00 p.m.

Miss T.T. and her star cabaret takes the stage tonight at the Lazy J. This week's guests are: Tracy Diamond-the snake lady, Keisha McIntyre, and the new Miss Lazy J-Tory Savage! The show starts at 10:30 p.m, but get there early, 'cuz the good seats go fast! After the show, stick around and dance to the spinning sounds of Bill Gonzalez.

Jade Michaels, Tara Dion, Marilyn Marx and Jessica Van Shelton will grace the stage at E/J's starting at 11:00 p.m. for the last super Saturday show. Starting next Saturday, there will be an amateur talent contest hosted by Tara Dion.

Sunday, Nov. 12

Sunday Brunch is back at the 611! You can get a made-to-order omelet, french toast, or more for only $2.50! It's wonderful way to start your Sunday!

The grill at the Brazos River Bottom has new hours. They start steak night at 5:00 p.m., and the grill stays lit until 9:00 p.m.

Mary's, naturally, shows the Sunday afternoon football game at the patio bar! Walter will graciously pull you a draft beer for only 50¢ a cup! The beer bust is from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The Venture-N's beer bust features a $1 optional buy-in with refills costing only 50¢. Such a deal! You can also enjoy the culinary delights of Hal and Jim's Yea!Buffet! which starts around 5:00 p.m.

Rip Stone, adult video star of International Mr. Leather "Uncut," will take to the cages of Pacific Street tonight at 11:00 p.m. The doors open at 7:00 p.m. and if you remove your shirt, you pay no cover! No shirt, no cover, no kidding! Sundays are overloaded at Pacific Street.

The patio of the Montrose Mining Company is a splendid place to spend your Sunday afternoon! They offer a $2 optional buy-in with 25¢ refills of Miller Lite Draft beer, or you may choose the $1 special on all domestic longnecks. Decisions, decisions!

Rich's is doing it again! The return of "Foam" will fill the walls of Rich's tonight. The doors open at 7:00 p.m. There will be a clothes check and post-Foam shower facilities available. What a party! Sounds like good clean fun to me!

The gates of Heaven open at 7:00 p.m. tonight with 50¢ well cocktails until 11:00 p.m.

Sundays at Gentry offer a full day of food, fun and frills! At 5:00 p.m, 8-Ball is on the menu as well as Texas BBQ dinners with brisket, potato salad, cole slaw and baked beans. Dinner is only $3.50 and is served till 9:00 p.m. Starting at 7:00 p.m., you can watch the world-famous Boy Toy dancers. To top the evening off, Black Velvett hosts the Sunday night male strip frenzy which starts at 11:00 p.m. Gentry, your one stop party place.

Cameron is having a birthday bash at E/J's tonight! The festivities will begin around 7:00 p.m. There is a benefit show to help raise money to send the birthday boy to the Mr. Southeast Texas Contest. Show time is 8:00 p.m. Special guest performances will be given by Tara Dion, Paivi Lee Love, Catia Lee Love, Katrina Lashawn, Roxanne Lee Love, Jamie Lennox, Tory Savage, Jessica Van Shelton and of course, the birthday boy himself!

There is a fundraiser for "Grandma" tonight at Club 403. Be there at 6:00 p.m for "That's What Friends Are For."

Monday, Nov. 13

Mary's, naturally, has domestic longnecks for only one buck from 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. tonight!

Honky tonk nights take over Gentry tonight and tomorrow night. They have $1.50 Miller Lite longnecks, free pool, and the cd juke box is free, too!

Shell Shocked? Join the staff of Pacific Street for an After Shock party tonight. The doors open at 9:00 p.m., and you can get in free with a pass. The doorman will be passing them out all weekend long!

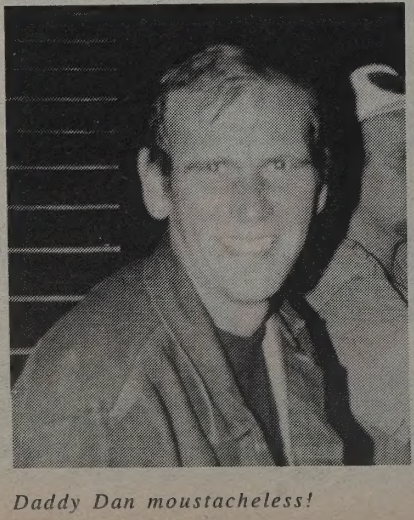
Tuesday, Nov. 14

In observance of Tuesday, Mary's, naturally, routinely offers a shot of Jose Cuervo for only $2. Some things never change.

The finals for the Tuesday night Amateur Talent night contest will be held at E/J's tonight. This contest will move to Saturday nights next week! See ya there at 11:00 p.m. Be sure to sneak out to the patio and give Armand a hard time! He LOVES a hard time!

Marci plays the songs you want to hear tonight at the BriarPatch! Gather your friends and head down to the BriarPatch, 'cuz extraordinary friendships begin at the BrairPatch.

Scoot down to the Brazos River Bottom for $1.75 domestic longnecks! This special runs all day and all night! They also have free C&W dance lessons starting at 9:30 p.m. The Brazos River Bottom, your Montrose Kountry Home!

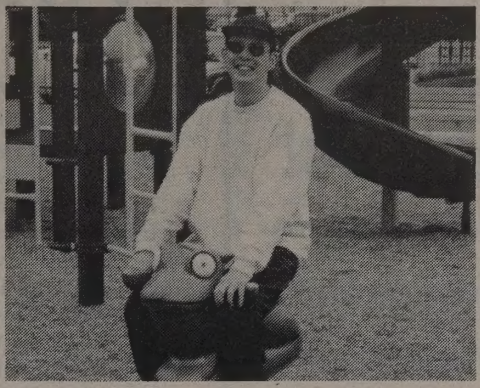


Daddy Dan moustacheless!

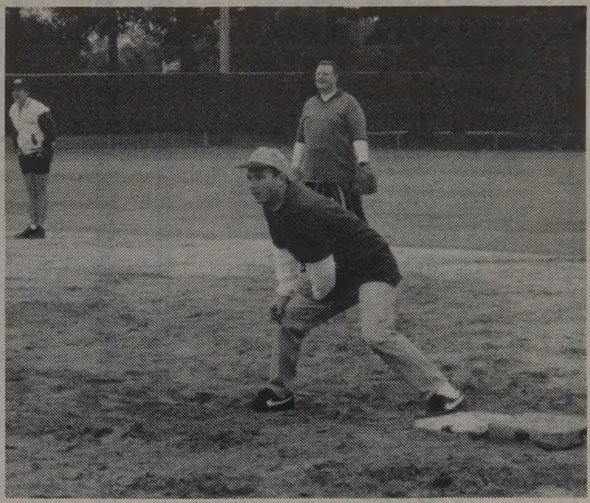
Bill has a new gurhlfriend!

Tuna at Rich's and Rodent Dreams!

Party girls at Chances



Steve, frogging around!



Gregg is about to steal 3rd base

(Houston Soap, continued from preceding page)

Wednesday, Nov. 15

The Names Project, Houston and Rich's present "A Night of Tuna," featuring the hilarious comedy of Joe Sears as "Aunt Pearl Burras" and "Inita Goodwin," Jaston Williams as "Vera Carp" and "Helen Bed." There will be a costume contest... come as your favorite "Tuna" character... and a hot cowboy contest, (Inita's in need of a hot cowboy.) The doors open at 9:00 p.m. and show time is 11:00 p.m. Tickets are $20. This benefits the Names Project's "On the Road to Washington '96" fund. If you would like more info, call 526-2637.

Retro-Rave Wednesdays continue on at Heaven. There is no cover until 10:30 p.m. with a donation to AFH's Stone Soup. Well cocktails are only $1 all night! Cheap drink prices and 80s music are a magnificent way to spend your hump night!

Hump this, baby! Hump over to Mary's, naturally, for happy hour prices all day and all night this and every hump day! $1.75 domestic longnecks and well cocktails will hump you thru the night!

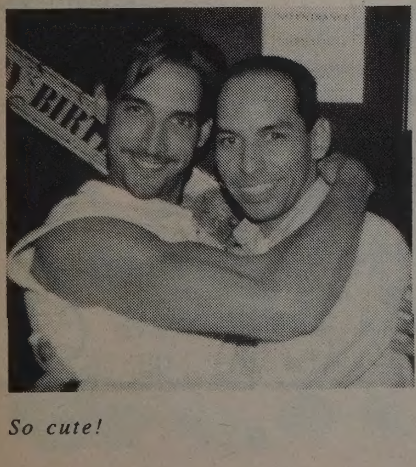
Sheila Lennon takes the stage of Chances tonight! She offers cool, country sounds as well as your chance to try out the Karaoke machine! Sheila starts at 9:00 p.m.

Catia is on the stage of Gentry tonight! She makes the contestants strip down to next to nothing! What a hard job! Stop in for the Wednesday night male strip contest at 11:00 p.m.

Cy Brinson and her jazzy sounds fill the walls of the BriarPatch tonight! Stop in and enjoy a BriarPatch-size Martini!

The Burger Bitch is on the patio of E/J's tonight. Hot meat off the grill from 6:00 p.m. till the coals die down!

The Lone Star Volleyball Association will be holding their annual Miss LSVA contest tonight at Heaven. This fundraiser for start at 8:00 p.m.



So cute!

Thursday, Nov. 16

"Star Search" Gold Karaoke nights continue at J.R's. The contest starts at 9:00 p.m. The world (in)famous Randy Jobe hosts this search for talent. There are cash prizes for the winners. Be sure to enjoy the $2 imported beer special that runs all night!

Over at the Montrose Mining Company, Regina (Whip Me!) Dane is searching for the best... buns in jeans, chest in t-shirts, and best tattoo! There is a $25 cash prize for the winner in each category. The contest starts at 11:00 p.m.

They used to call it kicker dancing, but I guess I should be politically correct and refer to it as C&W dancing! You can learn to C&W dance for free tonight at the Brazos River Bottom. The teacher starts spinning at 9:00 p.m. You can also boogie out to the patio for burgers with Brian.

The Texas Riders will be guest bartending tonight at the Venture-N. Stop in and have a cocktail or two with the friendly men and women from the Texas Riders!

Something new tonight at Gentry. Free, yes, I said FREE pizza tonight at 7:00 p.m. The Boy Toys start at 9:00 p.m.

Other Important Stuff

CHECK THIS OUT!!!!! Take the Gay Census! It is FREE! Check out the article and ad on page 25 or just call 1-800-GAY-VOICE! It is free, confidential and well, very important that we do it! Just do it!

One of my new favorite lunch hangouts is Bistro 224! I have fallen in love with their stuffed mushroom caps! Clip the coupon in this issue to buy one—get one free or take advantage of their $6.95 lunch special! Bistro 224 is located at 224 Westheimer.

The first annual Alpha to Omega 5K event will be Nov. 18 starting at 7:30 p.m. You can run, skate, walk, or wheelchair it to benefit the Omega House. If you would like more info, please call 524-6662.

Mark your calendars! You are invited to an original art showcase featuring more than 600 museum-quality oil on canvas paintings in gold leaf baroque frames. This event benefits the People with AIDS Coalition of Houston and will be at the Tim Hamrock Studio in the Highland Village. If you would like more info, call 960-9607.

The Montrose Softball League's first annual pet show will be Nov. 19. If you would like more, call 867-3913.

Lobo has "Bar Girls" and "Go Fish" on sale! Stop in and check out their super selection of movies, cards, and tons of gay/lesbian jewelry!

Carpets by Joy has a sale! Beautiful textured carpeting starts at $13.99 per sq. yard, genuine ceramic tile is only $3.99 per sq. yard and prefinished plank hardwood is only $5.99 per sq. yard. These prices include installation. If you are thinking about upgrading your living quarters, give Carpets by Joy a call @ 523-2509.

In the Chronicle's Nov. 4 issue, there was an article about ferrets! As you may or may not know, ferrets are not legal pets in all states! How could they say such mean things about such cute creatures? Well, California is just about ready to lift the ban of ferrets! YEAH! It was a good day for ferrets!

Birthday Corner

A special Happy Birthday to my Father! I bet I put every one of those gray hairs on your head, well, maybe with a little help from my brother and sisters!

A Happy (I'll dig 'till I find the bottom) Birthday to my own Ratrat! (He is 2 years old!)

A Happy (I love to BBS it) Birthday to Tiffany!

A Happy (I'll see you at Venture-N every night) Birthday to Melvin!

A Happy (Come see me at E/J's) Birthday to Ro!

A Happy (Yes I am single) Birthday to Tina at Chances!

A Happy (I'll make you a match) Birthday to Alicia Grant at Alternative Visions!

A Happy (I'll do anything for a cocktail) Birthday to Miss Alabama of the BRB!

A Happy (I love to wear a dress) Birthday to Cameron!

The reigning Miss BriarPatch helps celebrate

Rodent Droppings

Do ferrets have nightmares? Do they dream? Well, last Saturday, LW and I had the boys out of their cages for several hours of rough play time. We chased them all around, let them dig in the sandbox, and well, let them get into any mischief they wanted. Ratrat loves to climb into the dog bone box, sneak one out, and hide it behind the bookcase! I bet we have hundreds of half chewed milk bones back there! Anyway, back in their cages after the long playtime, they both went immediately to sleep! An hour or so later, while still in the sleep mode, Ratrat made that little hissing/chirping sound he makes when he is fighting with Harvey, then slices the air his paws, as if he were fending off an attack. I'm pretty sure it was a rodent nightmare! I bet he was dreaming about pinning Harvey down and beating him up! Harvey plays very rough and we often have to separate them as we fear Harvey will injure Ratrat! Harvey weighs over 5 pounds to Ratrat's 1 lb. 4 oz. That is a big difference in rodent sizes! Well, on with the droppings:

Scott Lewis (Heaven): A date for 8? Which hotel did you invade?

Judy (BRB): I saw you dancing with yourself at the Grey Party! What's wrong, honey, couldn't find anyone to dance with? Also, Don says that when he is horny, there is only one place for you to sit to make him shut-up! Where is it?

Glen Webber (Houston Voice): Please honey, quit getting naked in the office! It makes it hard to concentrate on our work when you do that!

Giovanni (Mine): Guard that door honey! You never know what kind of riffraff will wander in! I did!

Ricky (Hangs at the BRB): Did you ever learn how drink in a P-row?

Bart (611): I understand you almost spent Halloween in jail! Did you rob the Hollywood Food Store or not? You sure were dressed like the perpetrator!

Simon (Mine): Well, you finally found someone taller! The big question is who is the man?

Tom and Doug: Did you enjoy Germany, or did Germany enjoy you?

Roy M. (Hangs at the BRB): Whose underwear did you find in your console and whom do they fit? Are they schoolbus-sized?

Garrison (Mine): Look both ways before crossing the street!

Clint (BriarPatch): Glad to finally meet you! I look forward to your return to the BriarPatch after the holidays! I want to see you play topless... I'm sure many others do also!

David S. (Mine): Oct. 26 is NOT Thanksgiving!

Shirley (LBB): Why do I have "Shirley, Lipps and Ken-L-Ration" scribbled on a bar napkin? I'm confused!

Baby (Formerly of Charlie's): Good luck with your new job! Remember that the emergency room of the hospital is not much different than Charlie's at 3:00 a.m. on Sunday morning!

Steve (Mine): What bar is too "Yuppified" for you to go in?

Gary T. (J.R's): I drink Cuervo not Bacardi and Coke! I also heard they lovingly refer to you as the Ice Queen Machine! Just what does that mean?

Jay Allen (PS): You have to pee first then look!

Miles (CBC): Did you like riding the truck or the trucker?

Jennifer (Rich's): Is it true you got tangled in the "woods" at Steam last Sunday?

Jeff (CBC): I heard you lost a contact lens in the maze. Did you ever find it, or was that an excuse to me down on your knees?

Ray Davis: Why does Greg (Rich's) call you "shackles?"

Crystal Rae Lee Love (RSICSS): Did you have any problems keeping your face on while in Colorado Springs? Ever try super glue?

Jerial (CBC): I understand you have a bad back. Could it be the "bend over" disease?

Nancy (Bite Me!) Ford: Just how many mimosas does it take to get you started on your column?

Well, I'm off to the private grand opening of a new dance bar! It is called "Incognito." From what I hear, it will be open to the public starting this Friday. It is located at 2524 McKinney @ Live Oak. You can call 237-9431 to get more info. I'll tell you more about it next week!

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FRIDAY - 11pm
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Newly Crowned Miss Lazy J -
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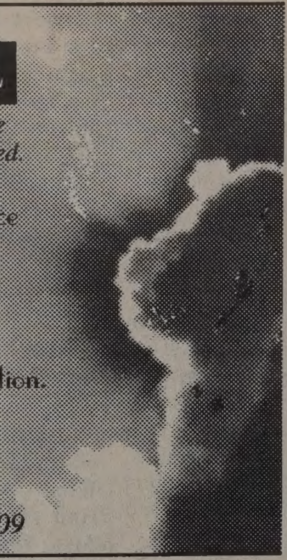

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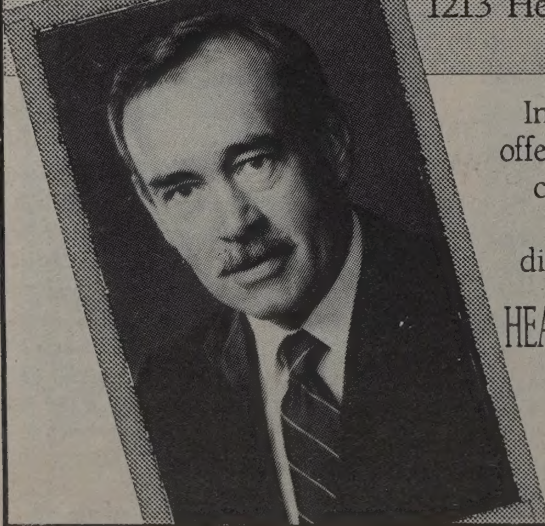

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This and That!

Notes on entertainment, literature and pop culture

By JON ANTHONY
Houston Voice/Houston

Raquel Welch has been signed by ABC-TV to reprise her role as Superman's nemesis Diana on the networks Sunday night series *Lois and Clark*. Her guest appearance was the show's highest rated episode last season......**Julie Andrews** was the toast of Broadway last week. Back on Broadway after a lengthy hiatus, the legendary Ms. Andrew's reprised her role from the film of the same moniker. The Broadway musical produced by her husband, Blake Edwards, opened to mixed reviews and stellar box office.....**Carol Burnett** has taken the Big Apple by storm, as well, in her new Broadway smash, *Moon Over Buffalo*.....The ABC serial *All My Children* just launched a story line that incorporates a regular gay character. Michael Delaney (portrayed by **Chris Bruno**) revealed his homosexuality last week. ABC says they will stick with this character, a school teacher, for the long haul regardless of any pressure.....**John Travolta** is being heavily touted as a serious contender for the coveted Best Actor honors at this year's Oscar ceremonies for his portrayal of Chili Palmer in *Get Shorty*......And the winner is **Mariah Carey**. Huh?! **Janet Jackson** and Mariah Carey have both released new CD's, entitled *Design of a Decade* and *Daydream*, respectively. The music industry has been speculating for weeks as to which one of the divas would prevail with respect to sales. Well, sorry Janet, Mariah's album debuted at No. 1 and has stayed there for three weeks. The album's single Fantasy also remains at No. 1. Ms. Jackson, on the other hand is No. 3 on the album charts and her single Runaway reached No. 5. With new releases from **Madonna** and **Whitney Houston** around the corner, it remains to be seen if Ms. Carey can stay on top of the throne.......Speaking of divas, **Cher** has just released the Holiday issue of *Sanctuary*, her mail-order catalog featuring Gothic home furnishings and accessories, as well as jewelry and clothing. It's quite a unique catalog from a unique star in her own right. To receive a copy of Cher's catalog, dial 1-800-SANCTUARY. The Academy Award winning actress and singer will return to the big screen this spring in the comedy *Faithful* costarring **Ryan O'Neal**. She is currently in London working on a new album......CBS has canceled *The Bonnie Hunt Show* and *If Not For You*. The former show was produced by **David Letterman's** production company. Mr. Letterman told the *New York News* in an interview, within days of the cancellation, that he may not want to continue with his late night talk show when his contract expires in a few years. Coincidence?........**Jean Smart** and **Mary McDonnell** star in the new CBS sitcom, *High Society*, loosely based on the British comedy smash *Absolutely Fabulous*. It follows *Murphy Brown* on Monday nights at 8:30 p.m.....**Bette Midler**, **Diane Keaton** and **Goldie Hawn** have all signed to do *The First Wives' Club*, scheduled to start filming soon.....**Liza Minnelli** and **Shirley MacLaine** will appear together later this season in a CBS movie of the week......What do **Gladys Knight**, **Sheena Easton** and **Tina Turner** have in common? James Bond Films. Tina Turner has just released her new single *Goldeneye*, which is the theme song for the upcoming Bond flick. Both Gladys and Sheena have had success with prior Bond themes. Goldeneye, starring **Pierce Brosnan** (T.V's Remington Steele) will be in theater's later this month.......*Get Shorty* has been the #1 movie in America for three weeks running......NBC's smash hits *Seinfeld* and *E.R.* keep duking it out as T.V's #1 show. The Thursday night staples are within 1/10th of a rating point apart.....**Richard Pryor** will appear on the November 20th episode of the CBS drama *Chicago Hope*. He will appear as a patient suffering from multiple-sclerosis, a disease which the actor/comedian suffers from in real life......**Angela Lansbury**, furious over CBS's decision to move her show, *Murder, She Wrote*, from Sundays to Thursdays, says this season will be the show's last. The show, in its 12th season, has seen its rating level off drastically competing with NBC's smash hit *Friends*. During the show's 11 year run on Sundays it consistently ranked in the Top-20 without fail.....Meanwhile, Murder's replacement on Sunday, *Cybill*, last year's sleeper-hit on Monday nights, has not fared well in its new slot. CBS is in danger of losing both franchises......**Faye Dunaway** appears in a new Columbo movie on ABC this Thursday, November 9......NBC's *Mad About You* is beating the competition in its new time period on Sunday's and although its ratings are down 5% from last year when it aired on Thursdays, NBC is pleased and plans to use the show as an anchor for its Sunday Night Movies......**Harold Robbins**' new novel *The Raiders*, a riveting read, is now out in paperback. The best selling sequel to *The Carpetbaggers* is a must for any Harold Robbins fan, and their are many. He is the world's biggest selling novelist......**Sidney Sheldon**'s new book, *Morning, Noon and Night*, was just released. Mr. Sheldon is the best-selling author who created *I Dream of Jeannie* and *Hart to Hart*, among other T.V. series and films.....Speaking of books, *My American Journey*, the autobiography of **Colin Powell** remains at the top of the Non-Fiction best-seller list. On the Fiction side, **Michael Crichton's** tome *The Lost World*, a sequel to *Jurassic Park*, holds steady at Number 1.....**Joan Armatrading** (RCA) and **Oleta Adams** (Sony) have just released their latest C.D.'s., currently available at record stores everywhere......**Freddie Mercury**'s final album with the rock group **Queen** hits record store shelves this week. He recorded the album during the final stages of his sufferance from AIDS ......Quote of the Week: "How's Electroshock going? It certainly has put an attractive curl in your hair." - Sydney to Laura on *Melrose Place*.

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Market research firm launches major study of gay population

GayCensus '96 Features Phone Survey

Overlooked Opinions, a Chicago based market research firm that specializes in the gay and lesbian market, is cooperating with the *Houston Voice* and other community newspapers in undertaking an extensive national study of the gay and lesbian population.

With the two-phase "GayCensus '96" project, Overlooked Opinions hopes to compile the broadest assessment ever of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered communities in the United states and Canada. "Nothing like GayCensus has ever been done. We anticipate reaching in excess of one million lesbian, gay and bisexual adults in the next three months alone," explained Jeffrey J. Vitale, Overlooked's chief executive officer.

A primary component of the project is a ten-minute telephone survey (currently being advertised in the *Voice* and in gay and lesbian publications in other cities) utilizing a toll-free number, **1-800-Gay-Voice**. The survey covers basic demographics as well as questions covering a wide array of topics, including discrimination, political beliefs, consumer behavior and general opinions. There is also an optional section for people who happen to be HIV-positive or have AIDS.

The GayCensus project is being heavily promoted all across North America with media buys, direct mail and through local and regional gay publications, including the *Voice*. Long distance charges have been donated in part by Lyrihn Communications, the home of Community Spirit Long Distance. The company estimates that it will take nearly a year to complete all phases of the study, which will include a printed survey in selected markets.

"When the results are tabulated," said Vitale, "a great many questions will be answered for one and all. The data promises to be fascinating. It will help the lesbian and gay community better understand itself, and it will help the political, educational and commercial sectors develop relationships with our community." As well, the project will help publications like the *Voice* become more aware of their readership and the makeup of the communities we serve.

To participate in the survey, call 1-800 Gay Voice and listen for instructions. The caller will hear a brief description, then will be asked to respond to questions by pressing buttons on their touch tone phone. Callers without a touch tone phone, on request, will be sent a survey by mail.

A TTY is also available for non-hearing or hearing impaired callers. It can be reached by dialing 1-800-555-0900.

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GLAAD MEDIA WATCH

by Al Kielwasser

Deep (space) Kissing

The Nov. 1 broadcast of *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine ("DS9")* featured one of the most passionate same-sex kissing scenes ever to grace prime-time television. The "DS9" episode, titled "Rejoined," centered on the alien "symbiot" (or "Trill") known as Dax.

Dax once inhabited a male body but now lives in a female "host," Jadzia (played by series regular Terry Farrell). In "Rejoined," Jadzia is reunited with Lenara—a woman that Dax had been married to a century ago, when he was hosted by a male humanoid. While such obscure "Trill" history might escape new viewers, a kissing scene involving Jadzia and Lenara was anything but vague. The two women lock lips (and tickle tongues) in a kiss that makes all previous "lesbian kissing scenes" on television look like mere pecks on the cheek.

"Rejoined" not only demonstrated a rather casual acceptance of same-gender and bisexual relationships, but also explored the broader issue of discrimination and taboos associated with love (it is revealed that "Trill" culture has a taboo against association with "past-life" lovers). Although the episode was not specifically "about lesbians," the story line clearly struck a responsive chord. As one lesbian viewer—and a self-professed "Trek" fan—put it: "The kiss was great, real, and lesbian. What a treat! Also, neither woman died—this is a big deal, considering most shows I've seen."

Other fans, however, offered more-cautious praise. Tim Perkins, who works with a group of lesbian and gay Trek fans known as the "U.S.S. Harvey Milk," agrees that "the kiss between Jadzia and Lenara was electric and I'm happy the camera did not flinch." But, Perkins adds, "if this is a step forward, it is a small step. After thirty years of 'Star Trek' and promises of regular gay and lesbian characters, it is a very small step."

Perkins claims that *Star Trek* producers continue to offer allegories and metaphors about homosexuality, instead of simply introducing a full-fledged homosexual character. "Wouldn't it be a much more effective, direct and courageous statement to show a gay or lesbian human being as a resident character on 'DS9,'" Perkins asks, "as an ongoing character who has a distinctive personality and depth, who doesn't die in one episode, but grows and changes and interacts with other members of the crew, who has a chance to relate to a lover the way heterosexual characters do?" He adds: "Isn't the fact that there are no human characters who are gay or lesbian in any iteration of 'Star Trek' a denial of our existence?"

Shortly before he died, *Star Trek* creator Gene Roddenberry promised to introduce a continuing lesbian or gay character into his imaginative universe. To date, producers have failed to fully honor Roddenberry's death-bed wish.

*** ACTION ALERT! Share your thoughts with Rick Berman and Jeri Taylor, Executive Producers, "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine," 5555 Melrose Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90038, tel. 213-956-5000; copy your correspondence to Kerry McCouggage, President, Paramount Television, 5555 Melrose Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90038, tel. 213-956-5000 and Lucy Salhany, President, United Paramount Network, 1180 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90025, tel 310-575-7000. To join in a national petition drive to secure a positive, ongoing, queer "Star Trek" character, contact Kristy Billuni, GLAAD/Voyager Visibility Project, 1360 Mission Street, Suite 200, San Francisco, CA 94103, e-mail billuni@aol.com (K. Billuni) or outspeaker@aol.com (T. Perkins), URL http://www.gaytrek.com/gaytrek.

Rating the Ratings

When Night is Falling, a new movie from October Films, is scheduled to open this month. The film tells a lesbian love story that the homophobic Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) has deemed unfit for most audiences.

Despite objections and a formal appeal from October Films, the MPAA has given the movie an "NC-17" rating. The "NC-17" classification is the most restrictive of the MPAA ratings, and effectively limits access to adults (over 17). The new rating also carries a popular stigma (from an affiliation with "soft core pornography") that could cause some adults to shy away as well. To date, most mainstream producers have viewed the NC-17 rating as a detriment to a film's financial and popular success.

When Night is Falling focuses on a theology professor, whose chance meeting with a circus performer leads to romance—LESBIAN romance. The film includes two love-making scenes that are no more graphic or gratuitous than similar HETEROSEXUAL scenes routinely included in "PG-13" and "R" rated movies.

"It is our strong belief that if these two scenes had involved heterosexual love-making, we would have received the less restrictive 'R' rating," said October Films executive Amir Malin. "It is very unfortunate, and quite ominous, that the MPAA has opted to take this course with its rating decision."

The MPAA's homophobia has been mirrored by *The New York Times*. The nation's "newspaper of record" has refused to print an paid advertisement for *When Night is Falling*. The ad depicted two figures, embracing and partially covered by a bed sheet.

As long as homosexual love scenes are treated like nuclear waste, movie audiences will be encouraged in their homophobia. In a culture that routinely "advises," "warns" and otherwise discourages the viewing of lesbian or gay affection, it becomes easy—even inevitable—to ignore, fear or despise homosexuals. What is censored in fiction, is censored in fact.

*** ACTION ALERT! Protest the NC-17 rating of *When Night is Falling*. Contact the MPAA, Classification and Rating Administration, 14144 Ventura Blvd., Suite 210, Sherman Oaks, CA 91423, tel. 202-293-1966, fax 202-293-7674. Complaints should also be directed to Lorren Elkins, Managing Director, Advertising, "The New York Times," 229 West 43rd Street, New York, NY 10036, tel. 212-556-1234, e-mail LorrenElk@aol.com.

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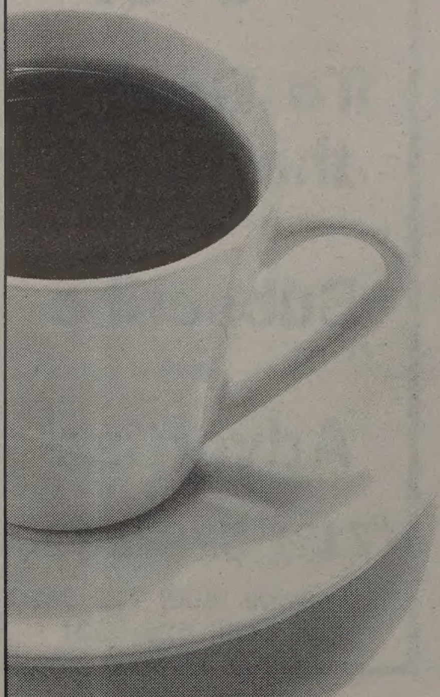

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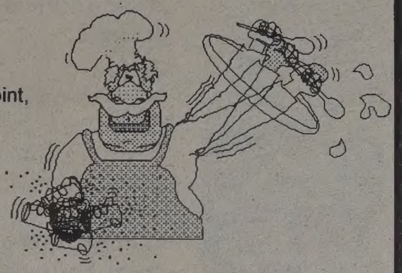
RECIPES BY KUNTRY KIDD

Hey y'all! Since the holidays are just around the corner, I thought I would go ahead and reprint some of the recipes that I have to you last year. I hope you don't mind, but since then we may have picked up some new readers, and they may have missed these. I will be repeating recipes until the "New Year".

Jewish Nut Bread Cake

1/2 C. golden raisins
1-1/2 C. water
1-1/2 tsp. baking soda



Heat above three (3) ingredients to boiling point, then cool completely

3 eggs
2 C. sugar
1 C. Wesson oil
3 C. flour
1-1/2 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. salt
1 C. chopped English Walnuts
1 tsp. vanilla

Put oil, sugar and eggs in a large mixing bowl and mix well. Add raisin mixture and blend. Combine flour, baking powder and salt to raisin mixture. Add vanilla and walnuts.

Bake in large angel food cake pan (grease well) and bake for 1 hour at 350 degrees. While cake is still warm pour over glaze.

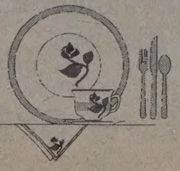
GLAZE:

1/2 C. powdered sugar
1 tsp. vanilla
1/4 C. milk
1 Tbs. butter

Heat to a boil and let stand a few minutes. Pour over cake while still warm. Cool cake completely before removing from pan. May need to run a knife around pan before pushing up from the bottom. Also, run the knife around bottom and carefully dump the cake onto your hand and place on a serving dish.

UNTIL NEXT WE EAT!

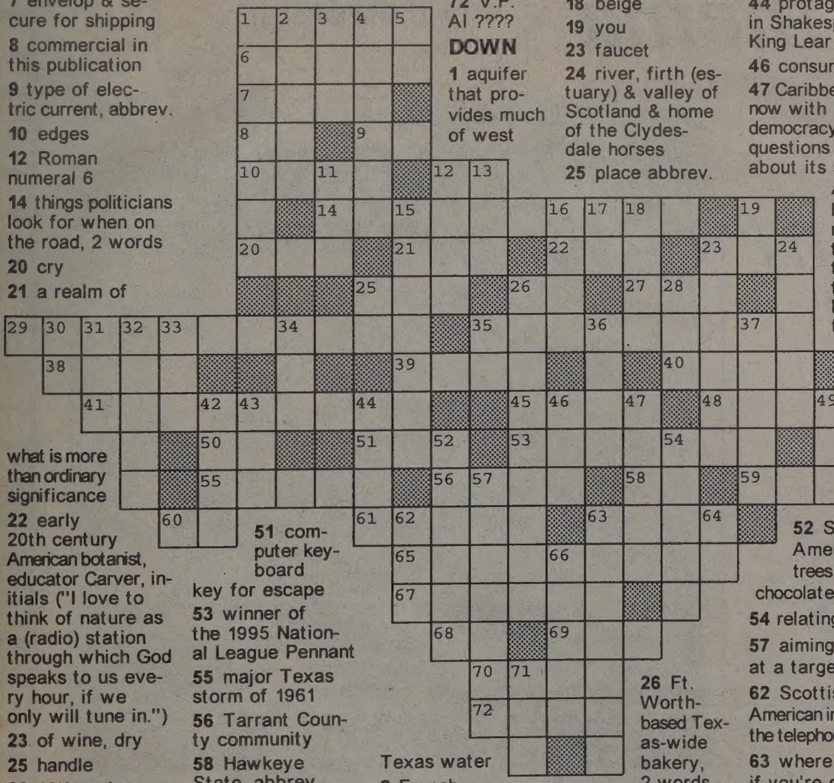
KUNTRY KIDD



The Great American Puzzle

TEXAS EDITION

By Henry McClurg



ACROSS

1 master of ceremonies
6 occurring everyday
7 envelop & secure for shipping
8 commercial in this publication
9 type of electric current, abbrev.
10 edges
12 Roman numeral 6
14 things politicians look for when on the road, 2 words
20 cry
21 a realm of what is more than ordinary significance
22 early 20th century American botanist, educator Carver, initials ("I love to think of nature as a (radio) station through which God speaks to us every hour, if we only will tune in.")
23 of wine, dry
25 handle
26 10th and 9th consonants of the alphabet
27 talk freely
29 19th century Dakota Indian leader, 2 words
35 gullibility
38 burrow
39 signs
40 olden
41 city Houston Oilers are working on moving to
45 German composer Johann Sebastian ????
48 bovine mammals
50 1st & 3rd vowels of the alphabet
51 computer keyboard key for escape
53 winner of the 1995 National League Pennant
55 major Texas storm of 1961
56 Tarrant County community
58 Hawkeye State, abbrev.
59 baglike part
60 abbrev. for weak, week and work
61 one who races
63 Prince Bismarck, creator of the German Empire, 1871; or Preminger, Austrian-born American producer
65 shrubs native to China with large white flowers now widespread in U.S.
67 raises, promotes
68 Spanish for 'yes'
69 concealed
70 obligation
72 V.P. Al ????

DOWN

1 aquifer that provides much of west Texas water
2 French for Tuesday
3 Central Intelligence Agency acronym
4 home of the Sun Bowl
5 adjective suffix for 'characterized by'
11 8th U.S. President Van Buren, initials
12 exactly suitable
13 noun suffix, one that does
15 recorded amounts
16 gaze
17 direction Austin to Lubbock (as the bird flies, of course), abbrev.
18 beige
19 you
23 faucet
24 river, firth (estuary) & valley of Scotland & home of the Clydesdale horses
25 place abbrev.
26 Ft. Worth-based Texas-wide bakery, 2 words
28 Cotton State, abbrev.
30 Land of Lincoln state, abbrev.
31 change hide into leather
32 decorative formal headband
33 Internal Revenue Service acronym
34 Broadcast Music Inc., song licensing group
35 Superman's disguise, initials
36 Roman numeral 750
37 name of theater in Dallas where police found Lee Harvey Oswald
42 cut with repeated irregular blows
43 by way of
44 protagonist in Shakespeare's King Lear
46 consumed
47 Caribbean nation now with 1 year of democracy but still questions remain about its stability
49 major broadcast network that had, then lost, first O.J. live interview
52 South American trees that yield chocolate & cocoa
54 relating to birth
57 aiming in at a target
62 Scottish-born American inventor of the telephone, initials
63 where you are if you're on the right or left of an object, plural
64 acronym for computer's operating system
66 used as anesthetic
71 indefinitely long time

Solution elsewhere this issue

c.1995 GULF FEATURES, PUZZLE TX151

GALAXY GAYZER

A HOUSTON VOICE EXCLUSIVE

HOROSCOPE FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 10 - 16, 1995

IF THIS WEEK IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: Be careful not to always put others first, to the exclusion of your own needs. It is instinctive for you to always be seeking balance. Get out and meet new people, and express your ideas with confidence. You crave continuous motion in your life.

ARIES: (March 21-April 20) Your personal life takes precedence, so don't hesitate to resolve troubling situations. Once your worries are behind you, there will be nothing to distract you from your focus of interest and that's good news. Keep your thoughts to yourself for now.

TAURUS: (April 21 - May 21) You seem to be taking a hard look at a close relationship, and it may not be able to stand up under this kind of scrutiny. Remember thoughtless words can cause hurt feelings. Don't speak out of anger, wait until you cool down a bit. Don't worry so much.

GEMINI: (May 22 - June 21) Career matters need to be examined carefully. There are ideas that sound good when you discuss them, but may not work out in actuality you may end up disappointed. A friend is looking for a sympathetic ear, and could use a little attention and advice.

CANCER: (June 22 - July 23) There are many people and a number of situations which need your personal attention. However, make sure to save some time for yourself as well. Your attitude is quite positive for the next few weeks, mostly because you've taken a delightful new look at yourself. Don't be pushy.

LEO: (July 24- August 23) You are in a great mood, and this brings a soothing effect on your thinking. Let go of some of your past problems. You seem pretty involved in what your friends are doing, causing conflict with your significant other. Stay away from gossip.

VIRGO: (August 24 - September 23) Challenges on the job seem to be thrown your way, but you will no doubt handle them easily. Avoid jumping to conclusions about a new acquaintance - you hate when others do that to you. Be more assertive with family members who are demanding more of your time.

LIBRA: (September 24 - October 23) Be extra careful of what your hunches are telling you - they may be wrong. Sign no agreements and make no long-range plans. There are a few conflicts between work and home interests, realize that you can't please everyone. Others will look to you for leadership.

SCORPIO: (October 24 - November 22) It seems to be an up and down week for your emotions. You and your mate agree on some things and strongly disagree on others. Not many things will get done, it may be best to just row with the flow. If you want something done on the homefront, it will be best to do it yourself.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 23 - December 21) One of your closest relationships may be experiencing a bit of turmoil - keep calm and ride it out. It will not come easily, but try to be the peacemaker in any minor spats with another. Answers to some of the questions you've had about money may be found in a financial expert.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 - January 20) Underneath your cool exterior, you crave understanding. There is a close friend who knows this and can offer it. Since there is room for improvement in us all, it's time to take a good look at yourself, and see what you can do about your own image. Choose your words carefully.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 - February 19) Financial matters are coming to your attention again. Try to cut spending in a number of key areas. Money will be tight for the next several weeks. Even though you have alot of energy and enthusiasm in the workplace, keep in mind that haste will usually make waste.

PISCES: (February 20 - March 20) Don't jump to conclusions about a special person in your life you don't have all the information yet. Concentrate on maintaining harmony among family members and loved ones. Everyone is looking for attention, and no matter who you choose, someone is bound to get hurt. Have fun.

Personal Instructions

TO PLACE A HOUSTON VOICE PERSONAL AD --
Come to our offices at
811 Westheimer, Suite 105.
It's a good idea to write out (up to fifty words) what you want to say. The annual cost is only $29.95 -- less than one dollar per week. (6months -$17.50 and 3 months-$10) At the office you will be given the functioning details. Ads can also be placed by mail, with payment enclosed, phone 713-529-8490, for details.

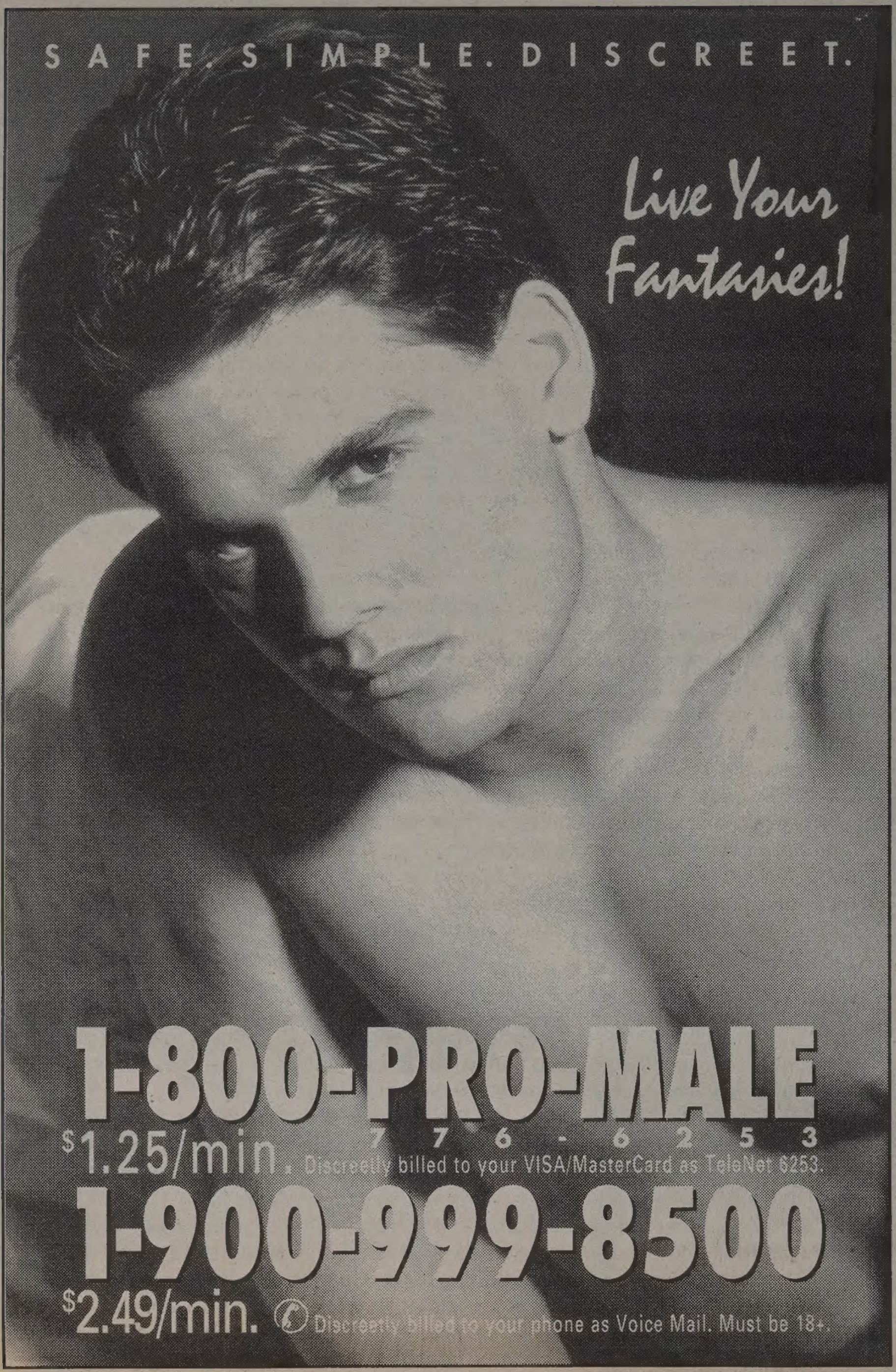
TO RECEIVE RESPONSES TO YOUR AD: A toll-free 800 number will let you know if you have recorded telephone responses. You can then listen to these responses on a 900 number using your personal code and pin (personal identification number). Responses can also be received by mail, see below.

TO ANSWER AN AD BY PHONE - Call 1-900-454-3576. Listen to the instructions. You will then actually be listening to the advertisers recorded message and can leave a voice message with your name and number. You can respond to more than one personal during the phone call. As individuals check their messages, they can respond to yours. OR you can pre-pay a special 800 account, listen and respond without the cost appearing on your phone bill. Call 529-8490 for more information.

TO ANSWER AN AD BY MAIL: Each ad has a five digit code. Write your response and seal it in a stamped envelope with the five digit code in the address place. Place your sealed response and $2.00 in an envelope and mail it to us, we will affix a mailing label and the intended person will receive your response. This service costs $2.00 plus postage per numbered envelope, and is available only with the Houston Voice Personals.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS: To place a Houston Voice personal ad you are required to participate in the "live voice" aspect of our Personals by calling the special 800 toll-free number. You must record, in your voice, your Ad. If you do not participate in the voice aspect, your ad may be discontinued without reimbursement. The voice message can be as simple as "You read the ad, leave a message" to complex and informative. The ads, both print and voice, can not contain references to sexual acts or organs (FCC et al. regulations). If you are having difficulty recording your message, phone 1-800-780-4947, for assistance. Ads should be positive, describe what you want, undesirable qualities/characteristics need not be listed.

G - Gay, **M** - male; **F** - female;
W - white; **B** - black;
H - hispanic, **A** - asian,
HWP - height, weight, proportionate,
DDF- disease, drug free


SAFE. SIMPLE. DISCREET.
Live Your Fantasies!
1-800-PRO-MALE
$1.25/min. 776-6253 Discreetly billed to your VISA/MasterCard as TeleNet 6253.
1-900-999-8500
$2.49/min. Discreetly billed to your phone as Voice Mail. Must be 18+.

Looking good?

Are you model material?

Have studio/ lab, will photograph & process.
Result: Professional slides. (Suitable for submission to national publications.)
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FREE subscription line
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NOW On-Line in Dallas
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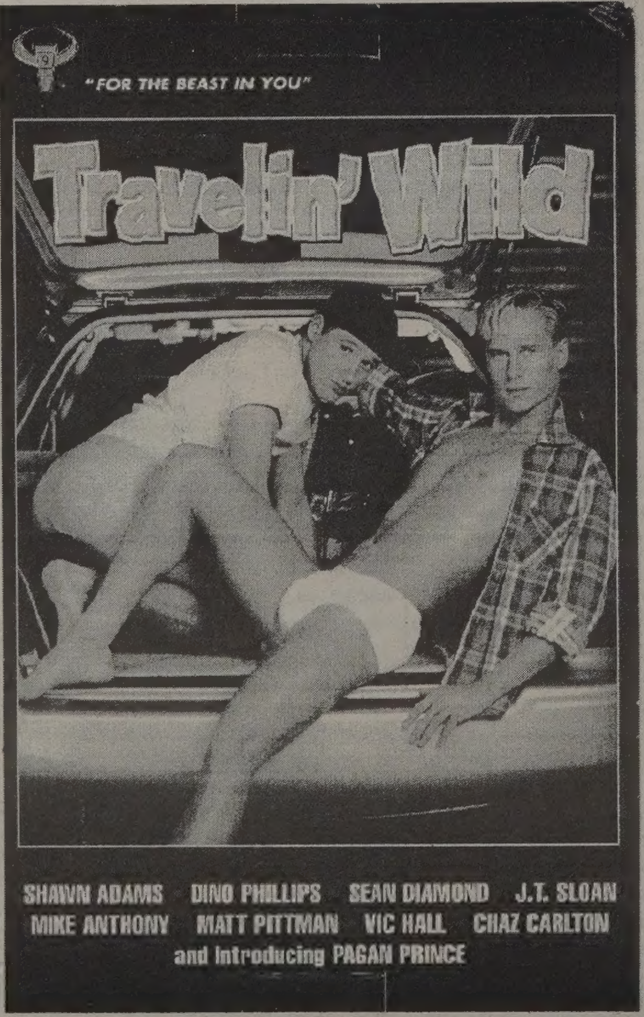
"FOR THE BEAST IN YOU"
Travelin' Wild
SHAWN ADAMS DINO PHILLIPS SEAN DIAMOND J.T. SLOAN
MIKE ANTHONY MATT PITTMAN VIC HALL CHAZ CARLTON
and introducing PAGAN PRINCE

TRAVELIN' WILD

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DIRECTED BY PETER GOESINYA

Houston VOICE Personals

AFTERNOON DELIGHT

Professional GWM, 49, blonde-blue, clean shaven. 6', 165, swimmers body. I.S.O.part-time play buddy. You are good-looking, 30 to 50, HWP, drug free, without hangups. CALLS ONLY. Ad 25704

LAST RESORT

SWM, 42, masculine, muscular, handsome, athletic, college educated, isolated, sexually inexperienced, unknown in the gay community, seeking affluent man, any age but prefer older. I desperately need help with my mom's medical bills and urgency for hospitalization. I'm offering a relationship of ANY type (contractual?). I'm desperate and completely sincere. Ad 25742

PASADENA: 3 CAN BE GOOD COMPANY

And lot's of fun! GWC, barely 30's, one's versatile, one's top only. Both well endowed, HWP, DDF, tired of bars. You: GWM, 18-30, HWP, DDF, versatile or bottom. For: Safe 3-Way Fun, Friendship and Companionship. Ad 25695

SWEET AND SPICY LOOKING FOR YOU!

SBF seeking healthy happy woman. I am looking for a loving friendship. Enjoy dancing, candlelight, music, laughing and a Southern Lady. Put a little spice in your life! I do want truth in all correspondence. Ad 25731

PARENTING, ANYONE?

Sincere, mature, responsible, stable, attractive, professional GWM desires to be apart of the parenting process. Lesbian couple, or lesbian single preferred to participate in one of life's greatest treasures. Joint-custody or custody to the couple with visitation for male frequently. With so much to give to a child, why waste it when gay couples and singles have proven that we are unbeatable as parents with more depth and love to give. Ad 25723

SPECIAL BOTTOMS WITH SPECIAL SKILLS

Submit! Provide service and do it right! Take instructions and behave exactly! You're a boy/slave in need of bindings and discipline! Take it all and say thank you! Know your place with a demanding top! If GM, 25-40, fit, clean, easy going, nice guy, then call now! Ad 25653

EUROPEAN GUY

I am 27 years old, 5'7", 132, brown hair and brown eyes, healthy (HIV-), warm and caring. I enjoy movies (foreign), music, animals, cars, etc. I'm looking for a compatible, masculine, professional man who is single, smart, funny and charming. Ad 25715

GWM PROFESSIONAL

40's, 5'11", 165 lbs, good looks, nice tanned body (HIV-). Enjoy movies, sports, cars, the beach, music & dinning in & out. ISO younger HWP hispanic for dating. Desire monogamous relationship. Be DDF. I've a lot to offer. You will be pleased you answered. Ad 25705

"NOT ONLY ON WEEKENDS"

Single, black, female romantic seeks friend for possible relationship. Seeks woman who is certain of herself; her wants and desires. Interests include: movies, parks, special getaways, moonlit nights. Quality time very important; also hand-holding, good conversation, and a sense of humor. Must be stable, sincere and spiritually motivated. Ad 25740

GWF COUPLE LOOKING FOR NEW FRIENDS

Lesbian couple in our mid-30's looking for a single person, or couple, for a non-sexual friendship. We enjoy movies, music, the Rockets, Reba and Melissa. Ad 25641

SEARCHING FOR KEN!

Met you in Club Dallas Texas O-U weekend. Cannot get you off of my mind. You expressed interest in seeing each other again. Call & leave a message. Bruce. Ad 25728

CHRISTIAN SEEKS LIFEMATE

GWM, 33, 6'1", 285, christian, professional with big heart. I'm nice looking, short brown hair and mustache. Seeking that special someone with lots of love to give for monogamous relationship. Interests include movies, intimate evenings, helping people in need, yard sales, flea markets, and my church. Ad 25708

FOR $29.95 PER YEAR YOU CAN HAVE AN AD IN THIS SECTION

To establish your own advertisement in the Houston Gay Personals call (713) 529-8490 (or if outside Houston (800) 729-8490) or come by our offices at 811 Westheimer, Suite 105. Please have your ad written out. You will be given a box number as soon as we receive payment along with all instructions. Happy love making!

SUBMISSIVE MEN

I seek submissive men 21-45 years old, HWP, any race. While I am interested primarily in Houston-area men, I travel on business frequently, and men outside of Houston and Texas are also welcome to respond. I am 45, 5'9", 190, hairy, aggressive and demanding. Ad 25673

GO FOR IT!

GWM seeks man of color to make my dreams come true. Looking for love. Tired of games and one night stands. You can't lose what you don't have. Ad 25692

FEMALES IN SEARCH OF TROUBLE ...

are searching for you. All female SM/BD/Fetish social group. We might have the answers to your questions. Ad 25736

LOOKING FOR LIKE/PROF. FOR LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIP

Looking for a fellow professional with a strong work ethic. Interested in a long term relationship with someone who enjoys nice quiet weekday nights, followed by busy weekends. I'm 36, 6'1" and 175lbs., DDF. You should be between 28 and 38, established in your career, DDF and proportionately built. Life is good and I would like it to get better with the right man. Ad 25656

FRIENDLY YOUNG MAN WANTED

Affectionate older GWM seeks a young man for discreet and safe fun. I like to please young men, especially if they are slender, boyish and smooth. DDF please. Ad 25693

LOOKING FOR THAT SPECIAL PERSON

GWF, early 30's, non-smoker, looking for GWF, 30-45. I enjoy movies, intimate dinners & the outdoors. Mail response preferred. Ad 25730

All ads in this category should be strictly individual to individual. No commercial offerings. Nothing for sale. No promotions.

NEED DADDY YOU NEVER REALLY HAD?

Mature, professional, very hairy body/hairy chest, Edwardian beard, (sign of Cancer) . You, mentally mature, non-smoker, into safe fun. Please respond to Ad 25916.

NOT A SOCIAL BUTTERFLY

GM, 53, own home SW, college degree. Hobbies: gardening, genealogy, roses. Interests: cinema, dining out, cooking, travel. Seeking a few good friends to share activities. Discreet, n/s. Age/gender/race not a barrier. Ad 25703

TWICE THE FUN!

Two good looking masculine guys, 25 & 30, interested in meeting business professional (25-45) for occasional hot, safe, discreet fun. Must be successful, masculine and in shape. Prefer mail responses, letter/photo. Ad 25721

Attractive male, 32, 5'9", 145#, sincere professional. Seeking monogamous relationship with someone who is sincere, HWP, non-smoker, and values family life. Interests: museums, traveling, dining out, and quiet conversation. Prefer mail responses. Ad 25722

HOMEBODY

GHM, 41, 5'9", 145, looking for a younger man that's always wanted to be that devoted "housewife" type. Someone a little happy go lucky to offset my seriousness. Looking for that man that wants to make a long-lasting home life together. Bedroom eyes a plus. Ad 25709

BUBBLE BATHS BY CANDLELIGHT

I'm a GWF, 35, trained massage therapist, romantic, sincere, spiritually oriented (Fox, Ponder, Hay), dog owner. Can't cook! Wannabe lesbian activist but unsure how. Shy about the first move. Seeking friendship or possible romance with GWF or GAF, 32 to 42, north or northwest. Ad 25732

SOUL/LIFE MATE WANTED

GWM, 51, 5'10", 205 lbs. stocky weightlifter, HIV-, professional demeanor, active Christian, conservative straight lifestyle, seeks brawny, bear, linebacker, beefy hunk/chunk with similar attributes. Physically challenged encouraged to reply. Thanks! Ad 25727

TOP SEEKS BOTTOM

Top needs to satisfy/eliminate basic urges and seeks bottom to use for this purpose. I'm HWP, mature, good looking, HIV+, generally nice and I enjoy doing it especially when the bottom gets happy. Mail responses, please. Ad 25706.

VERY WELL ENDOWED

Attractive GWM, 39, 6'1", 175 and HIV-. Dominant top/daddy type. Seeking the intimacy lacking in a world of casual encounters. I.S.O. younger masculine bottom"boy" that's muscular and attractive. Interests include movies, clubs, intimate evenings, and camping. Respond by letters only; with phone and photo please. Ad 25700

MATURE MASCULINE TOP

Seeking meaningful relationship with masculine bottom. Me: GWM; good looks; lean, firm body; professional; HIV-. You: sensuous; good shape; employed; no addictions. Latin, Mediterranean a plus. I want what I can deliver: honesty, trust, respect, love, monogamy, intimacy, commitment. Letters preferred; include phone. Photo optional. I'll respond. Ad 25694

LOOKING FOR BILL:

Your name is Bill, a GBM I met in the Ripcord. You said you were taking a friend home, but you were late in returning to the bar. I would like to get in touch with you. Ron Ad 25134

BLACK MALE SEEKS WHITE MALE

37 year old black male, HIV+, 30 waist, 6', 155, healthy and active. Seeking GWM HIV+ age 25-40 for monogamous relationship. Must be sincere. No one nighters please. Ad 25681

GALVESTON: LOOKING FOR SEXUAL BUDDIES

I'm 43, married, 5'10", 160lbs., average looks, DDF, clean, top-cut-discreet. Ad 25598.

WHO KNOWS...

Seeking conversationally stimulating, visually appealing, physically active, socially acceptable person to first take a walk with, then whatever comes next. I'm mature, the aforementioned and HIV+. Mail responses, please. Ad 25710

LOOKING FOR MASCULINE MALES

I'm a W.M., single, clean cut, 59 y.o., 205 lbs. I'm a loving, caring, trusting, person. My interests are movies, good food & cozy home life. I'm looking for single W.M., that's masculine, clean cut, loving, caring, trusting, 30-50, for friendships & long term relationships. If interested contact me so we can meet and get to know each other. No dope/smoking/alcohol. Prefer mail responses. Ad 25725

HIV+ HISPANIC MALE

Mid 30's, professional, healthy, sincere, good sense of humor. Seeking other HIV+ men for friendship but I'm primarily interested in entering a serious relationship with an honest, caring and loving man. Ad 25632

SEEKING HIV+ HISPANIC MALE

I am in my early 30's, healthy, HWP and am interested in developing a relationship with a sincere, honest and caring man. You must be professional/business-like, able to speak spanish and have proper documents to travel out of the country. Ad 25712

ATTENTION - NUDIST

GWM, 45, 5'6", 142#, br/hazel with salt and pepper beard, DDF, smoker and a nudist. This nudist would like to get together for social non-sexual encounters. Just the enjoyment of viewing each other's bodies. Ad 25772

D ... . D ...

GWM, 6', 150#, beard, mustache, very healthy HIV+, non-smoker-drinker-drugs, straight appearance seeks same in bottom. For a great time anytime let's get together. Prefer mail responses. Ad 25729

SEEKING TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS

New to the gay scene. Recently divorced. Looking to make new friends/acquaintances. I am a WM early 50's but people say I look 40, DDF, non-smoker, permanently employed. I am average looking, tall and slim, hazel eyes, blond hair. I like quiet evenings, enjoy cooking, gardening, country and western music, the beach, and the outdoors. If interested, respond to Ad 25674.

GEOVANNY V. WHERE ARE YOU?

Contact David K. in S.F. Ad 25726

LOOKING FOR DEAN

Met you at the Phoenix in New Orleans Friday, Sept. 29. Lost your number. Gave you my Knights d'Orleans card. Call me collect eves. or 5-8 a.m. Got a Nawlins place for you IN MY HEART. Take the chance. Joe. Ad 25743

READY FOR A STEADY

Interesting GWM looking for a special gentleman. I'm 38, 6'2", 175, brown/blue, professionally employed, healthy, happy, emotionally & financially stable, warm, caring & relationship oriented. I enjoy travel, Nautilus, family, friends & more. I'm seeking a compatible GWM, 30s to 40s, height/weight proportional, who is single, smart, funny, charming, HIV-, clean-cut & happy. Respond today -I'm ready! Ad 25720

ABANDONED EXPECTING FEMALE SEEKS LIFE PARTNER

I am an attractive, feminine, 25 y.o., GWF w/ long hair. I am 4 months pregnant, 5'7", normal weight of 135#. Taking time off from erotic dancing and college to have baby. I am ready for a long term love. Prefer mail responses w/photo. Ad 25738

KIDNAP ME

Take me to your playroom. Bind me, use me, then release me in a couple of days. My captor(s): attractive, HWP, HIV-, serious master(s) and/or mistress(es). I am a successful intelligent WBiM, handsome, nice body & highly sensual, HIV-, HWP, with a weakness for the smell of leather who desires to be totally dominated. Ad 25711

IMPOTENT?

Me too, but with Prostag Landin E1 I'm ready to go again! I'm open, loving, monogamous. Seeking another impotent GM or potent top who needs love. Personal growth important. What's inside more important than outside. Hairy a plus. I have a lot to give. Let's find love! Ad 25707

GENTLE LEATHER "DAD" SEEKS NOVICE "BOY"

Attractive GWM physician, 35, 5'10", 160, new in town, seeks boy 18-24 with interest in light S/M, B/D. Very understanding and patient. If you ever thought of getting into "leather" with a gentle but firm master, give me a call. Ad 25744

FREE TO LOVE

Professional, mature, masculine, successful, fun loving gay white male, 40, 5'11", 180#, well built and very attractive, dark hair and deep grey blue eyes, and interested in a very long term monogamous relationship based on loyalty, honesty and most importantly, passion. True love runs deep, and there is nothing else quite like it ... to be devoted and committed to that one special person who is as equally into you as you are into him. Ad 25718

SERIOUS & SINCERE ONLY

Tall/Handsome/GWM. Loves to look, dance, & shop. Former LSU student turned paraprofessional. I.S.O. spontaneous, intellectual, politically incorrect friends. You must keep up w/fashion, latest dance music, and me! HWP & DDF. Ad 25702

BOTTOM SEEKS TOP

I.S.O.: Masculine, hairy, H.W.P., HIV-, well endowed GWM for safe fun. No strings. Pure indulgence. ME: 40 yr., HIV-, 5'7", 160 lbs, brown hair, brown eyes, w/S & P beard. Average guy. No hang-ups. Photo w/letter for response. Ad 25724

THE FOREVER MAN

Professional, mature, masculine, successful, fun-loving GWM, youthful, 40, 5'11", 180#, well built and very attractive w/ dark hair and blue eyes. Interested in a long term monogamous relationship based on loyalty, trust, and most importantly, passion. True love runs deep, and there is nothing quite like it. Ad 25717

SNOW SKIER WANTED

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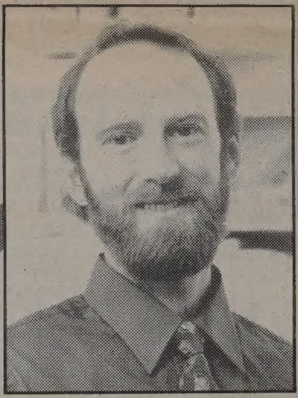

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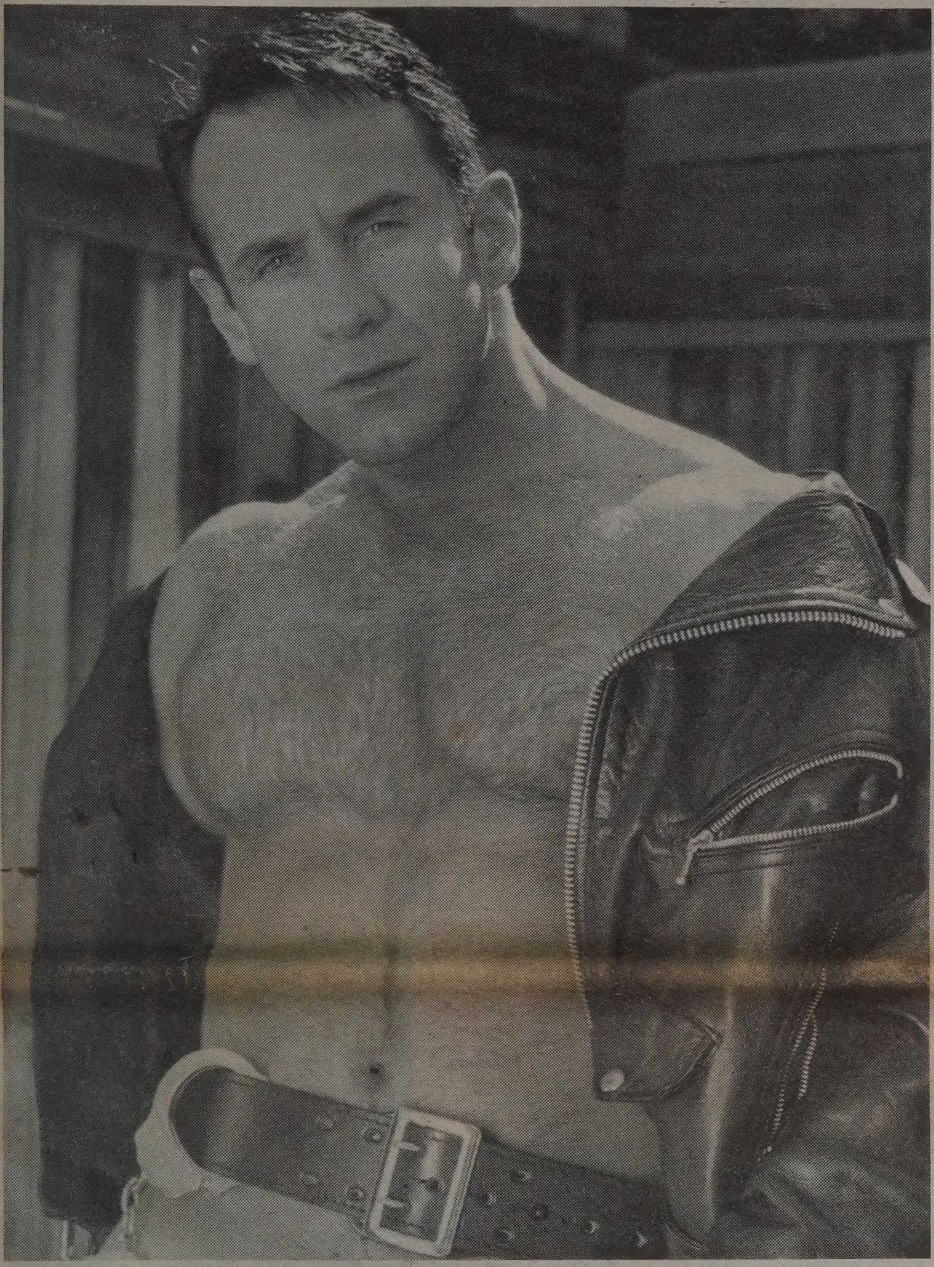

Calendar Model Steve Kelso appears at Lobo on Saturday, November 23.

Second-Rate Justice

By Paul Varnell

Jonathan Schmitz got away with, well, not murder exactly. It seems clear that Schmitz got away with something, but it is hard to say precisely what it was.

Schmitz was found guilty of second-degree murder for shooting a gay man, Scott Amedure, who had revealed "a crush" on Schmitz during a taping of The Jenny Jones Show three days earlier.

The verdict bristles with difficulties.

First-degree murder is premeditated murder, killing with the deliberate planning of the act in advance. Second-degree murder generally refers to spontaneous, spur-of-the-moment killing.

Schmitz clearly had deliberated and premeditated. The night before the killing, according to court testimony, he stayed up all night drinking alcohol and smoking marijuana. The next morning he drove to a gun store, bought a shotgun and some shells. Then he drove to Amedure's home, where he sat outside in his car for a while, then he went to the door and shot Amedure.

Clearly, some time during that night, if not in the days before, Schmitz formed the intention to kill Amedure. Otherwise, he would not have taken each of the subsequent planned, deliberate steps that led him to Amedure's door with a shotgun in his hand.

The jury knew all this, yet they voted for second-degree murder. What they seemed to be trying to get at, in a rough-and-ready way, was some mitigation of Schmitz's responsibility for his actions. They seemed to be trying to take account of what they took to be his diminished capacity for rationality, of the partial responsibility of The Jenny Jones Show, and quite likely, the upset they believed a rational man might feel if told that a gay man had a crush on him.

In doing so the jury seemed to willfully misunderstand "premeditated" to mean only "uncaused" or "unprecipitated," or even "uninfluenced" by any personal considerations or external events. But the jury was surely wrong. There are always social circumstances and preceding actions that influence all of our decisions and behavior. But people are not just billiard balls rolling around, reacting to impacts or stimuli. If that were true, no one could be blamed (or, for that matter, praised) for anything.

People, unlike billiard balls, can think, consider, weigh and "get ahold of themselves," as we say. They can alter their own velocities and trajectories. The point is not whether there are outside (and inside) influences but whether we try to get some perspective on them, how we process them, and how we choose to respond to them-whether we try to resist them (or learn from them) or yield to them.

The jury apparently took note of claims that Schmitz had a history of periodic depression, suicide attempts and an alleged thyroid condition.

It is just amazing the number of people who commit serious crimes, particularly young men who commit crimes against gays, who are suddenly discovered to have apparently serious

(Continued on page 5)

Gay Man Slain in Houston

No Arrests To Date

By Curt Morrison

The young men, about 13 of them, were enjoying themselves behind the nightclub Rich's last Thursday, when their joy turned into tragedy. The men were listening to a car stereo and engaging in spirits when they were approached by two African American males who demanded that they give them money and the car radio. The young men refused to comply.

Their anger turned to shock when one of the assailants pulled out a gun and fatally shot one of the men. The suspects fled the scene. The police were called and arrived promptly. The incident occurred at approximately 3:30am when staff members at Rich's heard the cries for help. "I just got all employees in the office for a safety meeting," said Lonnie Allsbrook, the General Manager of Rich's. Allsbrook contends that he was concerned about his employee's safety and wanted to go over proper procedure for staff members leaving the establishment near dawn to go to their cars.

Similar incidents occurred througout the Montrose area last week as well. On Wednesday a gay man was robbed on Grant street near Baba Yega's and on Thursday, just one hour prior to the incident at Rich's, a man was robbed near Missouri Street close to Cafe Noche. In both cases the descriptions of the suspects and their vehicles were similar to that of the men who killed the young man behind Rich's.

"It's definitely a group that is targeting the gay community," said Scott Lewis, Promotions Director for JR's, Heaven and Mining Company. Lewis informed the Houston Voice that Constable Jack Abercia's office is indeed taking the situation seriously and will begin a "saturation" effort in the immediate future. According to Lewis, the Constables office would like the community to know that the saturation patrols are in the interest of protecting the community's welfare and not intended as a method of harassment. Saturation patrols monitor neighborhood activity to locate any suspicious behavior. They are seeking the community's cooperation in this effort to apprehend the suspects that have committed the aforementioned crimes.

Be Safe

And Thanks to the Q-Patrol

See page 20 for story

Edgar Signs Order Barring Discrimination Against Homosexuals

From Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) _ Gov. Jim Edgar, who had been the lone state constitutional officer without a specific anti-discrimination policy for gays and lesbians, has issued such an order for offices under his control. Edgar issued an administrative order to all agency directors, emphasizing that sexual orientation be included in prohibitions against discrimination in recruiting, hiring and promoting state workers. ``We are not aware of any cases of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, but this clearly reiterates the governor's non-discrimination policy," Edgar spokesman Eric Robinson said Tuesday. The director of a statewide gay rights group on Wednesday welcomed Edgar's action.

“This demonstrates that the governor recognizes that a discrimination free workplace is a productive workplace," said Rick Garcia of the Illinois Federation For Human Rights. State personnel rules prohibit discrimination on the basis of

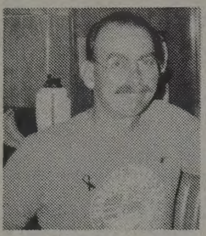
(Continued on page 5)

Voice Wins Award

See page 5 for story

Miracle on Main Street - Story on page 25

In Loving Memory



CHRISTOPHER REED

Our dear friend, Christopher Reed, passed away unexpectedly on September 4, 1996. Born in Pineland, Texas, he was a 1972 graduate of Lamar University. Chris held a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science and was a long-time employee of Sperry/Unisys where he was instrumental in developing Harris County's election returns system among the many other amazing systems he developed. During the past four years, Chris was employed by The Blood Center where he leaves many good friends behind. Chris is survived by his loving parents, three brothers, and a host of close friends. He was preceded in death by his partner, Ron Bratten, who was cared for lovingly by Chris until the very end. Chris was a brilliant man and the most loyal and helpful friend anyone could have. A lover of parties, Chris was an active member of the Classic Chassis Car Club, and he could be found wherever the party was, be it New Orleans, Los Angeles, New York or on the slopes in Europe. He loved the outdoors and was an avid camper and kayaker, having gone camping in the same campgrounds on the Guadalupe River since he was a small boy. Chris was buried in a small cemetery near his parent's home in San Augustine, Texas, with many of his closest friends in attendance. Chris was loved and remains in the hearts and minds of everyone who knew him. He is sorely missed.

Sleep well dear friend!

Love Mark, Dan, and Steve.

* * *

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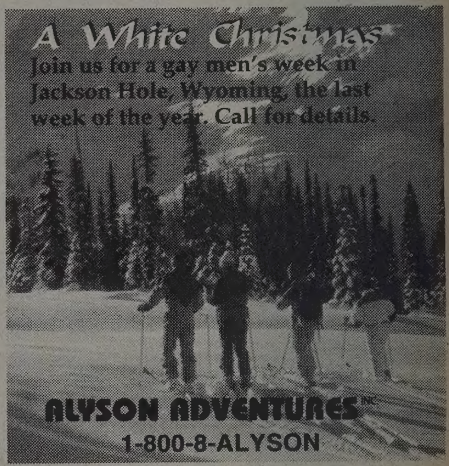

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Oscar Wilde's Comedy 'An Ideal Husband'

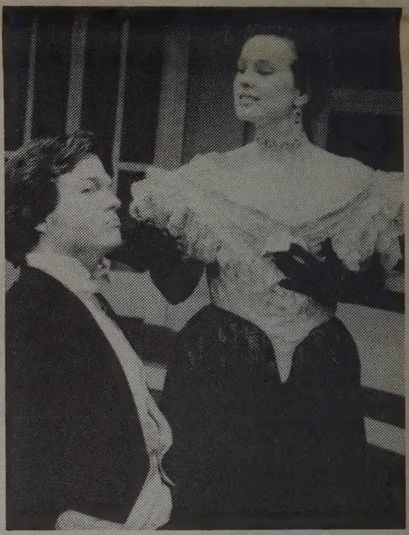
By LEO BOUCHER

Oscar Wilde's comedy, AN IDEAL HUSBAND, currently a Broadway hit, will be presented by Main Street Theater Nov. 21 through Dec. 22, at its Chelsea Market location. Directed by former Alley Theatre company member Peter Webster, AN IDEAL HUSBAND is a one-hundred-year-old jewel from the pen of one of the English language's wittiest playwrights. A perfect example of how very little ever changes in politics and society, AN IDEAL HUSBAND has proved its widespread popular appeal with the extended Broadway run of the production by England's Peter Hall Company. In his review of that production, Vincent Canby of the New York Times called AN IDEAL HUSBAND "the most effervescently serious comedy Wilde ever wrote, as well as one of the funniest."

"Scandals used to lend charm, or at least interest, to a man—now they crush him. And yours is a very nasty scandal." With these chilling words, the amoral Mrs. Cheveley (Celeste Cheramie) attempts to blackmail Sir Robert Chiltem (David Grant) by threatening to reveal to his adoring wife (Erica Garrison), and to the world, that insider trading was the source of his wealth. Meanwhile, Lord Caversham (Ted Pfister) urges his foppish, seemingly shallow son Viscount Goring (Joel Sandel) to marry Lord Chiltem's sister Mabel (Shannon Emerick), with whom he has carried on an extended flirtation.

The cast of AN IDEAL HUSBAND also includes Sara Chambless, Andrew Dawson, Julia Jay, John Kaiser, Robert Leeds, Che Moody, and Devin Williamson. The scenic design is by Karen Hoffman, the costume design by Margaret White, and the lighting design by Sam Jones.

Oscar Wilde is one of the great authors of this century. His plays include LADY ERMERE'S FAN, SALOME, A WOMAN OF NO IMPORTANCE, and THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST. He was also the author of the novel THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY. The first self-styled star of English letters, Wilde was famous for his epigrams, and AN IDEAL HUSBAND is rife with them; when Lord Caversham criticizes his son for his superficial conversation, Lord Goting replies "I love talking about nothing, father. It is the only thing I know anything about." One of Wilde's theatrical spokesmen, Lord Goring seems to live by Wilde's dictum "Treat all trivial things seriously, and all serious things with studied triviality."



Joel Sandel and Celeste Cheramie are featured in Main Street Theater's production of "An Ideal Husband" (photo by Doug Killgoe)

AN IDEAL HUSBAND will play Nov. 21 through Dec. 22. There will be no performance Friday, Nov. 22. The performances are Thursday at 7:30pm, Friday and Saturday at 8pm, and Sunday at 4pm. There will be a half-price preview Wednesday, Nov. 20 at 7:30pm; tickets are $5. Tickets are $10 to $15, with discounts for students, senior citizens and groups of 10 or more. The performances will be held at Main Street Theater at Chelsea Market, 4617 Montrose, in the Museum District. For tickets, call 524-6706.

Main Street Theater's productions are made possible in part by grants from the City of Houston through the Cultural Arts Council and Texas Commission on the Arts.

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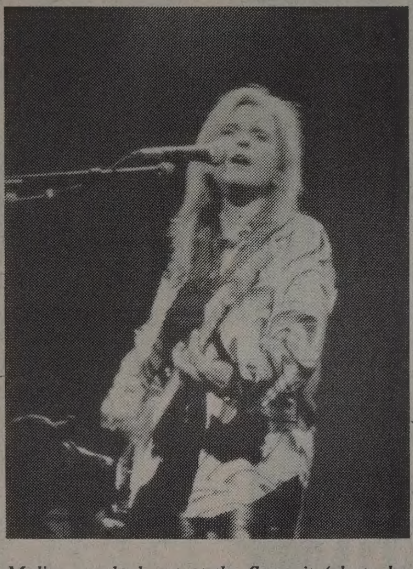
Musician and Mom to Be

Melissa Etheridge Rocks The Summit

By DAVID RICHARDSON



Melissa rocked out at the Summit (photo by Richard Silva)

Amidst a stage strewn with bras and flowers thrown by adoring fans, a large Texas style cowboy hat is tossed on stage and picked up by a performer, who after a brief hesitation turns her back to the audience, dons the hat and turns to the audience with an "aw shucks" grin before launching into a hard rocking number that has the crowds on their feet. Such is the phenomenon that is singer Melissa Etheridge.

Performing to a largely female group at the Nov. 18th concert at the Summit, Melissa performed many of her chart busting hits on the large stage until a moment of darkness and a pause, when she suddenly appeared on a smaller stage closer to the crowd on the other side of the auditorium.

While much of her material has a very similar hard rocking sound to it, there is no denying that this woman is also able to pull off a tender ballad with a message that seemed to reach all of those gathered at the Summit.

Her stage presence, both friendly and warm, made this reviewer think that she was much more at home on the small stage, closer to those who love her. She has an aura not of a superstar, which she is, but of someone you would like to have over at your house to have as a friend, and that, I believe, is a star quality all of its own. I am sure the audience at the Summit would agree. As a mother to be (she and partner Julie Cypher are expecting their first child in January of next year), an out Lesbian, and a musician, Melissa is someone who's window I would come to in an instant.

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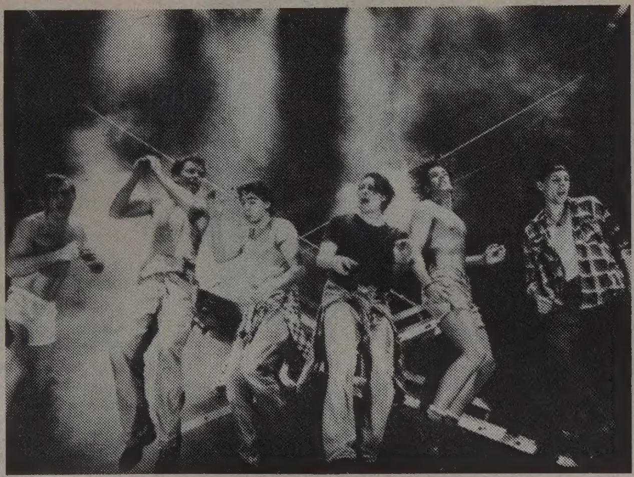
Tough Guys Do Dance

Aussie Tap Dogs Unleashed On Houston

By DAVID RICHARDSON



Tap Dogs Tapping!

Think of tap dancing for a moment and what images spring to mind? Perhaps Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers gracefully hoofing in tails and gown respectively. Maybe Shirley Temple and Bill Robinson tapping out a melody on a staircase or even Gregory Hines gliding across a polished wooden floor in a large dance studio. What about six muscular men in construction boots, jeans and work shirts dancing on planks, ladders, suspended platforms, etc., while wielding machismo like a sword?

Not many people would probably envision the latter, but award winning choreographer Dein Perry has created just such a spectacle, which has delighted Houston audiences this week with a limited run at the Wortham Center. What makes this unconventional show so amazing is not merely the costuming, but the contemporary choreography, modernistic stage design by Nigel Triffitt, and the fact that the dancers were all former blue collar workers who found expression through movement.

Amidst the wood, chrome and metal scaffolding, these six young men give a bravura performance of tap that is both exhilarating to watch, and also to hear—as the music they create with their feet overwhelms the simple percussion used by two musicians in the background.

Highlights of the show included a performance piece done on electronically enhanced drum flats, a tap number beat out in a large water filled tray, and one segment where a man was harnessed and suspended above the stage upside down to tap out a rhythm on a raised flat.

As of the date of this publication, readers will still have the opportunity to catch the final performance of this innovative group of performers on Friday, Nov. 22nd. So tap your way to the Wortham Center for an evening with the Tap Dogs.

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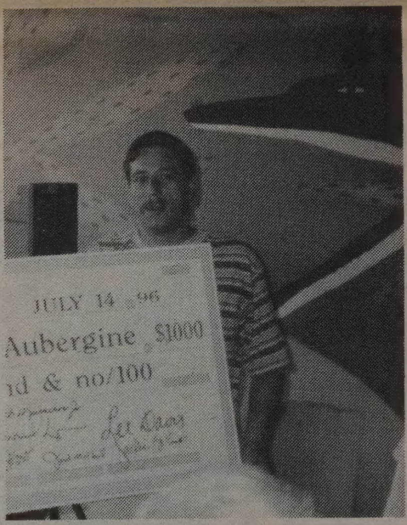
Volunteer of the Week



Robert L. Meyer

This week's volunteer was nominated by the organization which he helped found, *Soiree Aubergine* . Since 1990, *Soiree Aubergine* has raised funds to benefit the Bering Care Center Meals Program. **Robert L. Meyer** , "Bob" has tirelessly devoted his time, effort, blood, sweat & tears to making the most of *Soiree Aubergine's* activities.

Born in Boston and raised in Iowa, Bob is one of those persons who doesn't ask "how high" when told to jump! Give him a task, and he not only completes it, but adds in a few extra measures you never thought about. You can not call Bob an overachiever because he achieves everything he sets out to do!

Through Soiree, Bob can be seen counting money from benefit shows, car washes, silent auctions, garage sales and many other activities. Why always counting money? He is and has been since 1990 the Treasurer of *Soiree Aubergine* . In his spare time (when is that?), Bob works at the Bering Community Service Foundation's Development Office. You can usually find him once again counting money, stuffing envelopes, answering phones—o.k., you could once again say Bob does anything to get the job done.

The staff of the Houston Voice salutes you, Robert L. Meyer, and congratulates *Soiree Aubergine* for being fortunate enough to have found you!

HOUSTON VOICE
The Voice of Houston's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgendered Community

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Justice continued...

(Continued from front page)

physical and emotional problems that suddenly-and just in this particular instance-cripple their capacity for sound judgment: They were alcoholics, or they were depressed, or they were under stress, or they had not been eating right (Dan White's "Twinkie defense"), or they were physically or sexually abused when they were younger, or they had a drug problem.

One wonders how such people were even able to function with some semblance of a normal life up to that point, what they (or their parents) were doing about their "problems" (there are thyroid medications and drugs to combat depression), and how it is that other people with similar problems are not out killing gay men.

The jury also took note of the fact that Schmitz stayed up the previous night drinking alcohol and smoking marijuana. They considered this an "extenuating circumstance." They got it backwards: It should have been considered an "aggravating circumstance." When a driver who has been drinking causes an accident, we do not say, "Oh, well, he's not so much at fault since he was drunk." We add an additional charge of "driving while intoxicated."

In most people, alcohol clouds the judgment, reduces prudence and allows a greater role for the emotions in what remains of a person's thinking. Marijuana alters or disturbs the usual way of looking at things; in some people it can generate anxiety and even paranoia. Someone who is troubled is the very last person to handle these substances responsibly and in moderation.

Yet Schmitz deliberately chose to start drinking, and he chose to smoke marijuana.

That is, he deliberately acted in a way that reduced his capacity for good judgment and control of his emotions, and that he knew would do so. This is an aggravating circumstance, not a mitigating one; juries should not reward such behavior by reducing punishments on its account.

Everyone seemed to agree that The Jenny Jones Show was in some way involved in Amedure's death. As Schmitz' father said, "Had she [Jenny Jones] not done this, this would never have happened."

The television program was no doubt involved, but how?

Apparently the jury believed that finding out that a gay man has "a crush" on you can be very upsetting. The "reasoning" seems to be that the knowledge of such a crush invites imagining what the other person has in mind sexually, which means imagining the admired party in sexual activity with the admirer. That comes close to imputing a kind of imaginary or "virtual" homosexuality to the admired person, which could feel embarrassing and discomforting, even threatening, to a person who is disturbed by homosexuality. The television program, then, invited a large audience to imagine such a thing of Schmitz.

If it reasoned this way, the jury no doubt accurately assessed Schmitz's state of mind. But there is a problem.

Most people would agree that heterosexual males should not be so sensitive, that they should get over what is, after all, an irrational aversion to homosexuality in others or even the (playful) imputation of it to themselves. And they would agree that the law should not support and uphold such irrational and immature anxieties, but should try to discourage them. The point of the law, after all, is to uphold a standard of conduct, to teach people the right and wrong ways to behave toward others, regardless of how they feel.

But by taking Schmitz's heightened irrational anxieties into account and voting for a reduced charge, the jury signaled that these irrational and immature anxieties can have legal standing. By doing so, the jury did not live up to the law. They recognized a fact, but made it a norm. In doing so they served justice ill.

Houston Voice Receives National Award

By CURT MORRISON

The Houston Voice was this year's recipient of the prestigious Friends of the Quilt Media Award. The national award is given to a gay and lesbian publication whose media coverage best exemplified the organization's national display.

The national organization in San Francisco perused all community publications and bestowed this coveted prize to the Houston Voice due to their in-depth reporting and exposure of the project. Houston Voice editor Deborah Bell accepted the honor at the awards presentation this past weekend at Sausalito's.

"The Voice made a big difference as far as the Names Project is concerned. Due to their coverage, we received numerous volunteers. As a result of their experiences and involvement, these volunteers will now hopefully remain in active with future endeavors with the Names Project. And that is crucial," said Perrie Dolph, a Board member and the Regional Volunteer Chair for D.C. 96.

Edgar continued...

(Continued from front page)

religion, race, national origin, sex, age, handicap or any other non-merit factor. ``I want to re-emphasize the policy of this administration prohibiting discrimination and further clarify that any other non-merit factor includes, but is not limited to, sexual orientation," reads the order, which Edgar issued Friday.

A letter from Edgar's chief of staff, Eugene Reineke, said marital or parental status and physical stature are also included in the order. Edgar's order comes as gay rights advocates are preparing for another effort to pass a gay rights bill in Illinois. ``The governor's policy will help us in our effort to pass a bill to make anti-gay discrimination illegal in Illinois," said Lana Hostetler, chief lobbyist for the Illinois Federation For Human Rights. The bill would add sexual orientation to the list of factors for which discrimination is banned in areas such as housing and employment. Edgar has said he would sign a gay rights bill if one reached his desk. So far, though, efforts to enact one have failed.

Treasurer Judy Baar Topinka, Lt. Gov. Bob Kustra, Attorney General Jim Ryan and Comptroller Loleta Didrickson all had policies in place earlier. Secretary of State George Ryan adopted the policy in September.

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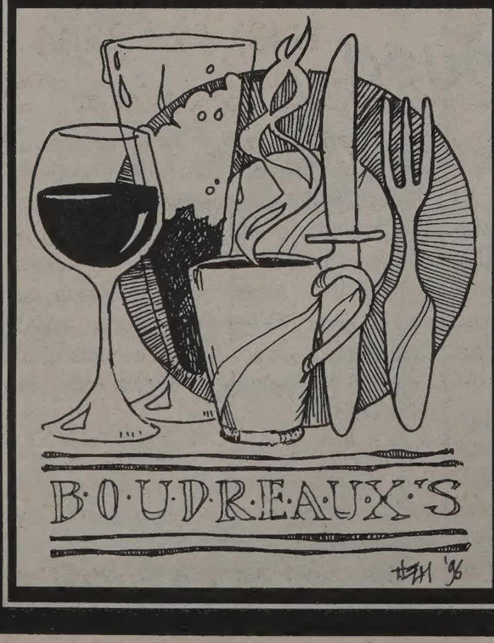

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Family Values

by Esperanza Lavender Jazz Paz

Remember when we were in school and every year an unimaginative teacher required us to write predictable essays like 'What I Did Over My Summer Vacation,' or 'The True Meaning of Christmas?' (Okay, I went to Catholic schools. Wanna' make something of it?)

I always hated those assignments because I felt that Teach was only making us do "busy work," and that after reading two or three that were almost exactly the same (there was only one True Meaning, after all), she would discard the rest out of boredom. I never put much heart into them, certainly not as much effort as I put into my weekly column, but then I did not have as appreciative an audience back then.

Appreciation is the theme of this week, being Thanksgiving and all, and there are some things I am mighty grateful for. I'm thankful for being lesbian, because otherwise I would not be married to the luscious and wantonly romantic Fantasy Jan. And I'm thankful for her courage, and her confidence in us that she left a good job and a happy life in another city to join me in Houston. I'm thankful that when our happily ever after was not so happy at first, she stayed anyway. And I'm grateful that those disheartening times were brief, and a long, long time ago.

I'm appreciative that our kids are good kids, working hard at their chosen jobs and academics. When they were all little (and easily manipulated) I used to congratulate myself on having such smart and mannerly kids. (Parents always get the kids they deserve, I'd smugly observe.) When we had three teenagers, two of whom were temperamental artists, with at least one always plotting against the others, my motto deteriorated to, Parents get the kids they get. None of them live with us anymore and I'm occasionally pretty well thankful for that, too, as well as for their cheerful cooperation in allowing me to exploit their foibles for my readers' entertainment.

I'm thankful that my friends Brandy and Claude are in my family, and I'm proud and happy that my brother Greg is back in my family, too.

I'm grateful that because of my friends who have more energy than I do, there is a well organized, spectacular, gala Pride parade in my own hometown every year, and a band to march in it, and extravagantly gay well-wishers to cheer it on. I'm grateful that Out Vote! and Pet Patrol and After Hours on KPFT radio (90.1 FM, midnight to 3am) are staffed primarily by volunteers because we could never pay people enough money to encourage them to inspire us like they do.

I'm thankful for diet root beer that tastes like not-diet, for pizza deliveries, for my other employer letting me cover Jan on my health insurance, and that I can't tell costume jewelry from real gold, because if I could, I'd want the real gold. I'm full of thanks for Houston City Council for granting uniforms and instruments and music and marching lessons to kids for the Marching Thunder program. I'm thankful for programs like Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Houston that make it possible for people who want children in their lives to coexist amicably with their partners who do not.

I'm thankful for the customers who call me at home, or stop me in the neighborhood and comment on my articles. There is no greater delight a writer hears than, "You know that column got us to talking. . . " or "I'm still thinking about what you wrote last spring about your best friend Pat." And I'm still real thankful for Pat.

I'm thanking my lucky stars that I live in Houston, where we have had a free community weekly newspaper for over 22 years, and that I have an editor who lets me turn in an essay like this every once in awhile and call it a column.

Happy Thanksgiving, friends.

Jan is thankful that Jazz got through this whole column without once referring to the hoax of Thanksgiving as the Day of Murdered Indigenous People, or mentioning that the terrorism committed by the European "settlers" to their "hosts" was done to bring glory to the Catholic church. Even if it is all true, you do not want to get her started .

Hearing in December on Genetic Evidence

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAFAYETTE, La. (AP)—The most important ruling in the trial of Richard Schmidt, a doctor accused of injecting his girlfriend with AIDS virus taken from one of his patients, may be handed down even before the case goes to trial. District Judge Durwood Conque is considering a December date for a hearing to decide whether the jury should hear the prosecution's key scientific evidence. Trial is set for Jan. 27.

Schmidt is accused of attempted second-degree murder for allegedly injecting Janice Trahan, a Lafayette nurse with whom he had an affair, with the AIDS virus under the pretense that he was giving her a vitamin shot in 1984. He has pleaded innocent. Prosecutors say the scientific evidence, which is based on comparisons of viral genetic material, proves Schmidt's AIDS patient is the source of the virus that now infects Trahan's blood. Defense attorneys have moved to keep the evidence out of the trial.

On Thursday, defense team leader Michael Fawer compared the scientific evidence linking the patient and Trahan to "shooting at a constantly moving target" because the AIDS virus mutates rapidly. The prosecution evidence relies in part on blood samples of local AIDS patients to establish the way the AIDS virus has mutated locally. Fawer said two-thirds of the prosecution's blood donors were homosexuals, a statistic that he said skews the results of the study into the way the virus mutates in this area. Assistant District Attorney Keith Stutes said the defense is arguing with the procedure because it doesn't like the results. "The very argument they make is the argument the jury should hear," Stutes said. "Is the DNA (genetic) evidence admissible? We argue that the science is acceptable."

PLAIN SPEAKING

by Larry Lingle

Adapting Brings Unity

The changing face of the national media toward lesbians and gay men is revolutionary; the evolution of gay media had vanquished the Dark Ages. Three decades ago the Closeted Ones—and in most cases this only appealed to gay men—could either seek out those small photo magazines "aimed" at body building or "One," the publication of the One Institute of Homophile Studies.

"One" provided thoughtful, often scholarly, articles by writers using pseudonyms, but did provide useful information on the rare book with a pro-gay slant and directions to gay-friendly places. Here one could learn of raids on Fire Island where truck drivers were deputized to sweep the dunes, or find a letter from Little Rock detailing the friendly bars in Tulsa (whether they were still friendly after the postal authorities culled that issue is another matter.)

One of the first attempts at a full-fledged gay magazine came in July of 1969. Called "In," it was the product of gay traveler Bob Damron who the previous year had debuted his now famous travel guide. The magazine appears mainly to serve as an advertising tool for the travel guide, and its primary focus is a photo spread on a now infamous production by Sal Mineo of "Fortune and Men's Eyes" which included the nude simulated rape scene between Mineo and a then young man from the midwest, Don Johnson.

This staged incident of homosexual rape hung over Johnson's career for years and many a gay man thought, wrongly, that Johnson appeared in the later filmed version of "Fortune." Interestingly, Johnson, at the time, shared a rented house with a gay man who later assured me that the young actor was truly a good actor and sincerely heterosexual.

"In" also survived, rather briefly, on limited advertising and a rather steep cover price, two dollars and fifty cents, for approximately seventy thick pages. It did, however, take advantage of the then recent Supreme Court rulings on obscenity and presented nudity—of course, in a tasteful fashion.

During the years of revolution, from Stonewall to ACT-UP, gay magazines tended to be primarily political and relied on advertising from within the community and, eventually, on sexual ads. From The Advocate to Outweek the gay press ventured into the gay mainstream while remaining politically correct. From such publications came the leading gay and lesbian journalists of our time.

Over time The Advocate adjusted to change, first segregating the sexual ads in a center pullout section and, finally, separating that portion into a publication of its own, aptly names "Classified." Outweek was too politically correct and suffered an agonizing death, but not before spawning "outing," Michelangelo Signorile and Gabriel Rotello, among others.

Gay evolution is like a speeded up time sequence. A decade of gay history corresponds to a century in the life of mankind. In less than five years the world of "Outweek" has been replaced with "Out," a glossy, nearly two hundred page tribute to the gay mainstream.

Where "Outweek" and its kin fostered pages of sex phone lines, "Out" offers double-page tributes from today's leading producers of gay friendly products, from clothes lines to designer water. The current issue offers my favorite, a two page spread from Johnnie Walker Red Label with a picture of a properly mixed race gathering of gay men and a simple caption, "For the Last Time It's Not a Lifestyle, It's a Life." It was enough for me to switch from J&B.

Such glossy productions as "Out" and "Genre" have incurred the expected criticism of "selling out." By catering to such mainstream advertisers the publications must, of necessity, surrender a politically correct position. Only if you are hooked on phone sex.

The former hotheads of gay journalism, such as Signorile, are now in "Out" and The Advocate. And the coverage is perhaps even more inclusive. The current issue covers same-sex marriages, gay families, even Samuel R. Delany's fascinating memoir of cruising 42nd Street.

Granted, the photos are less revealing but if that's your taste, rent a video (and you know where I would suggest). More importantly, the national gay magazines attempt to cover the entire community. Witness Howard Feinstein's article on the trials of filming Dorothy Allison's "Bastard Out of Carolina" in "Out."

The Advocate still received letters from gay men who object to the inclusion of lesbians into a magazine once so exclusively male. The Advocate has survived for nearly thirty years for just this reason: It has adapted to the significant changes within our community.

The epidemic known as AIDS has vastly changed the landscape of our community but nowhere as profoundly as the coming out of the lesbian community. First as the necessary support for their dying gay brothers and then with the growing realization of their own strength and power. And just as the progress of gay rights over the last two decades cannot be reversed, this new awareness of lesbian visibility is here, it's real and it's lasting. And most important, it is essential to a healthy gay community. If we ask women to tolerate our male fascination with the physical, then gay men must appreciate the concerns of lesbians, be it their health concerns or political issues such as choice.

The revolution of the gay consumer is only begun. Just as the mainstream enters our magazines, so it is appealing to our dollars and our patronage. The challenge for the gay and lesbian community is not to deny the changes but adapt those changes to strengthen the infrastructure of our community. This is the ongoing struggle as our community moves into a new age of political responsibility and AIDS as a chronic illness.

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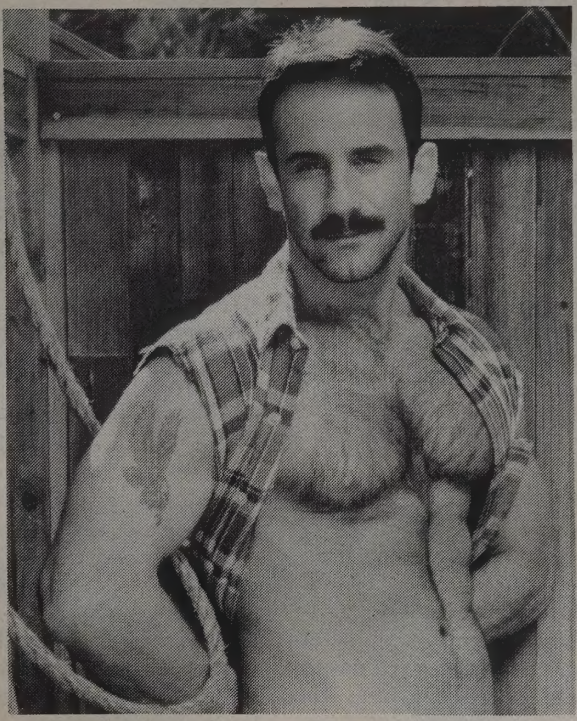

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Gay Unions to Be Blessed by Episcopal Diocese

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHILADELPHIA (AP) A month after Pennsylvania passed a law banning same sex marriages, the state's Episcopal Diocese has voted to create a blessing for gay and lesbian relationships. At the diocesan convention Saturday, clergy delegates voted 101-43 and lay delegates voted 75-53 to develop "a rite or rites for the blessing of committed relationships between persons of the same sex." The Pennsylvania Diocese plans to urge the national church to do the same. The combined 176-96 vote "was a surprise to me," said Bishop Allen Bartlett, who had expected a closer margin.

The 65,000-member diocese, which has 163 parishes and missions in Philadelphia and four surrounding counties, will submit the approved resolution to the church's national governing convention, which meets in Philadelphia next year. If the General Convention's two chambers approve, the church's Standing Liturgical Commission will be asked to devise an appropriate rite. Such a blessing would have no legal standing unless a state legislature chose to recognize it. That appears unlikely in Pennsylvania. In October, Gov. Tom Ridge signed legislation banning gay marriages in the state. The law, which takes effect in December, also says the state will not recognize such unions performed elsewhere.

The Rev. David Moyer, rector of Good Shepherd parish in Rosemont, sharply criticized the gay blessing resolution. "How can I now lecture young people and tell them my diocese says fornication and sodomy are not to be avoided?" But the Rev. Ruth L. Kirk, who co-submitted the resolution, said Christian moral codes cannot be developed purely on the moral codes of the first century. "As I said at the convention: Can God do a new thing? And can God use the church to do a new thing? For centuries we have condemned gays and lesbians. It is time to support committed, loving relationships."

Woman Loses HIV Negligence Suit

VICTORIA, British Columbia (AP) A Victoria woman who contracted the AIDS virus through unsuccessful artificial insemination has lost her civil suit against the Vancouver doctor who performed the procedure. Kobe ter Neuzen now fears she could lose the home she bought with an interim payment from the doctor's insurance company. It was the second time she had sued Dr. Gerald Korn of Vancouver for negligence. "I don't think this is so-called justice, but that's what the system does," ter Neuzen said after the verdict. "I'm entirely disappointed. It's not right, but that's how the system works."

A British Columbia Supreme Court jury decided Thursday that so little was known about AIDS in early 1985 that Korn was not negligent. Ter Neuzen underwent artificial insemination by Korn from 1981 through 1985. During her last treatment, in Jan. 1985, she received sperm from a donor who had HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. Ter Neuzen, 51, tested positive for HIV in Nov. 1985 but has not yet developed AIDS. She originally won $883,800 when she sued Korn in 1991, accusing him of using insufficient methods for screening his sperm donors. Korn appealed, but in the interim, his insurance company was ordered to give ter Neuzen $200,000 as an advance against a successful claim at the retrial.

She used the money to buy a home she says is key in dealing with being HIV positive. "It's the healing environment for me that supports my thinking about this particular virus, the house and the garden, the serenity," she said. The B.C. Court of Appeal overturned the 1991 award, saying the B.C. Supreme Court jury's reasons for finding negligence were not clear. A new trial was ordered. The Supreme Court of Canada upheld the appeal ruling, rejecting ter Neuzen's argument that Korn should have known in Jan. 1985 about the risk of transmitting HIV through artificial insemination. Because the jury at the retrial ruled there was no negligence, the insurance company could ask ter Neuzen to repay the advance. There was no word from the insurance company Thursday. Ter Neuzen's lawyer, Sandra Harper, said an appeal is being considered.

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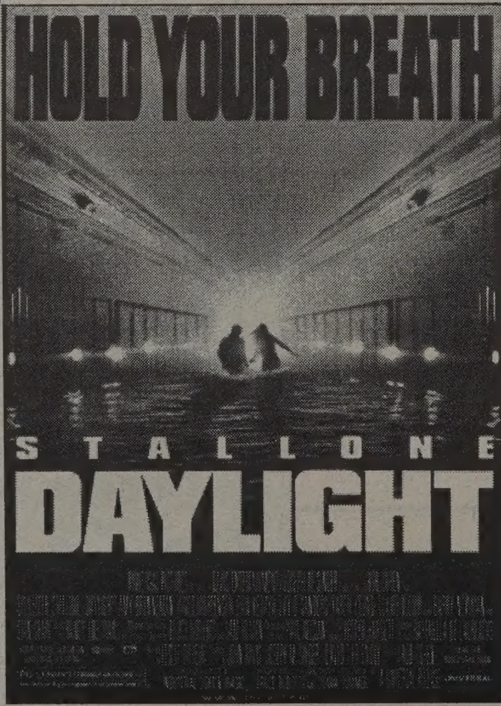

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THE OUTsider

by Curt Morrison

The Height of Stupidity

The San Francisco Chapter of ACT-UP's recent stunt of dousing the executive director of an AIDS Foundation with kitty litter containing 14 day old feline feces clearly demonstrates the absurdity of this organization's methods and seriously questions their genuine intent as an organization. The San Francisco AIDS Foundation's (SFAF) held a forum last month for the candidates in the race for city supervisor. ACT-UP members, upset over the organization's promotion of protease inhibitors, stormed the stage and showered SFAF Executive Director Pat Christen with the excrements. Are these people imbeciles? The entire incident is without foundation, totally meritless and ridiculous beyond any reasonable comprehension.

ACT-UP believes that the protease inhibitors are toxic and hazardous to the health of those infected with HIV/AIDS. That may well be, not being a doctor I can not judge the truth of their views. But the logic of their actions escapes me entirely. While I do not know whether the protease inhibitors are toxic or not, I am fully aware of the dangers of 2 week old cat manure and it's impact on those who are inflicted with the virus. For years, the medical profession has been warning HIV+ individuals to avoid the cat defecations because it has been proven to be harmful to their immune system. The feces is laden with crypto syridium which is lethal substance.

ACT-UP purports to be working towards ending the epidemic and helping PWA's. They do nothing of the kind. This type of idiotic and childish behavior is dangerous and does nothing whatsoever for the community but cause consternation. It reinforces the religious right's assertions of our communities behavior and certainly does not strengthen our case with mainstream America who have just recently begun to come around on gay and lesbian issues. Such behavior perpetuates stereotypes and makes the entire community look absurd. The candidates were forced to leave due to the stench, the individuals with AIDS were gagging and coughing. If ACT-UP truly cared about the welfare and treatment of those infected with the virus, thev would not have jeopardized the PWA's with their stunt.

SFAF is contemplating legal action against ACT-UP. Unfortunately, there are no laws for stupidity. If ever there was a legitimate case for filing a suit based on ignorance, this is it.

Clements Opposes McKenna

Al Clements is on a mission to stop Dolly Madison McKenna from being elected in her race against Ken Bentsen for Congressional District 25. Clements, who was the chair of the state's GOP platform committee at last year's convention and is the current program director for the Texas Right to Life Committee, opposes McKenna because she is pro-choice. "I'm going to make sure I do everything I can to make sure Dolly doesn't win," Clements told the Houston Chronicle last Saturday. While Clement's tactics may not upset many in our community, it should for the following reasons.

For those of you who don't remember, Clements was ousted by Log Cabin Republicans in conjunction with other moderate Republicans during last year's tenuous precinct convention in Senate District 13. Lynda Paukune was elected senate district chair. Clements is still reeling from remarks that McKenna made in a letter back in 1994 when she was running against arch conservative Gene Fontenot that included the following: "It is hate-filled agenda of gay bashing and intolerance that is much like the fundamentalism that has recently swept the Middle East, the neo-Nazis in Germany and now the neo-fascists in Italy."

It is precisely this type of maneuvering on the part of right wing extremists that will ruin the gains the Republican party has made nationally in the last several decades. Clements and his ilk may end up derailing McKenna's chance of winning the seat. That would be unfortunate. If the Republican party doesn't start becoming more tolerant, they will become the minority party. Unfortunately, it is difficult to rouse voters to the polls for special elections. For that reason alone, the religious conservatives will have an impact on the election. If McKenna does win the run-off despite Clements efforts to the contrary, it will be a major victory. Like it or not, the United States Congress is controlled by Republicans and we as a community would be better off with a moderate Republican who does not have a hate-filled agenda in our camp. Texas' is different from the national landscape in terms of conservatism. The likelihood of Texas becoming majority Democrat is not realistic in the near future. As such, it would be in our best interests to make sure that individuals like Clements know that we are a force to be contended with and that we will not sit by the wayside while he promotes his right wing extremism. In the long run, we will gain nothing if we continue to ignore Republican candidates when they are being attacked by the religious right because we support the opponent. If Republicans are in control, what possible benefit do we receive supporting Democrats who will not have the clout or leverage to deliver on our issues.

GOP Homophobes Blasted

In the Nov. 11 Sunday edition of the Scottsdale Progress Tribune (Arizona), the lead front-page story read Gay Candidate Says County GOP Shut Him Out. Written by David Leibowitz, it was a powerful testimony to the courage of one openly gay Republican candidate for the State Senate and the ignorance of local party leaders unable to reconcile their ideology and his sexual orientation. The article talks about how Steve Mays, a relentless worker and donor for his local party since his teens, had his campaign systematically torn apart by party leaders. For example, GOP chairperson Bernice Roberts refused to give May the same donation in the amount of $1,300 that the other candidates received. "I do not support that homosexual agenda. ... I feel that it's wrong," quips Ms. Roberts. Other examples include Republican committee members going door-to door to denounce May. For his part, May says he was "outed" by religious radical Charlotte Reed (the districts party chairperson) during the primaries and describes her as "an ignorant, under educated liar... The truth is, she has handed our district over to the Democrats... because she won't support anyone unless they adhere to her radical, right wing philosophy." May is publicly attacking his own party's homophobia. "This is my mission in life, I guess. I have to help teach the voters that you can be gay and Republican. I have to teach Republicans that and I have to teach gay people that." Indeed!

A recent poll in The Advocate demonstrates that Mr. May's should focus more on educating Republicans than the gay community. According to the poll, 68% of gays and lesbians think gay Republicans have a positive role to play in advancing civil rights for lesbians and gay men. Ignorance may be prevalent, but it does not prevail.

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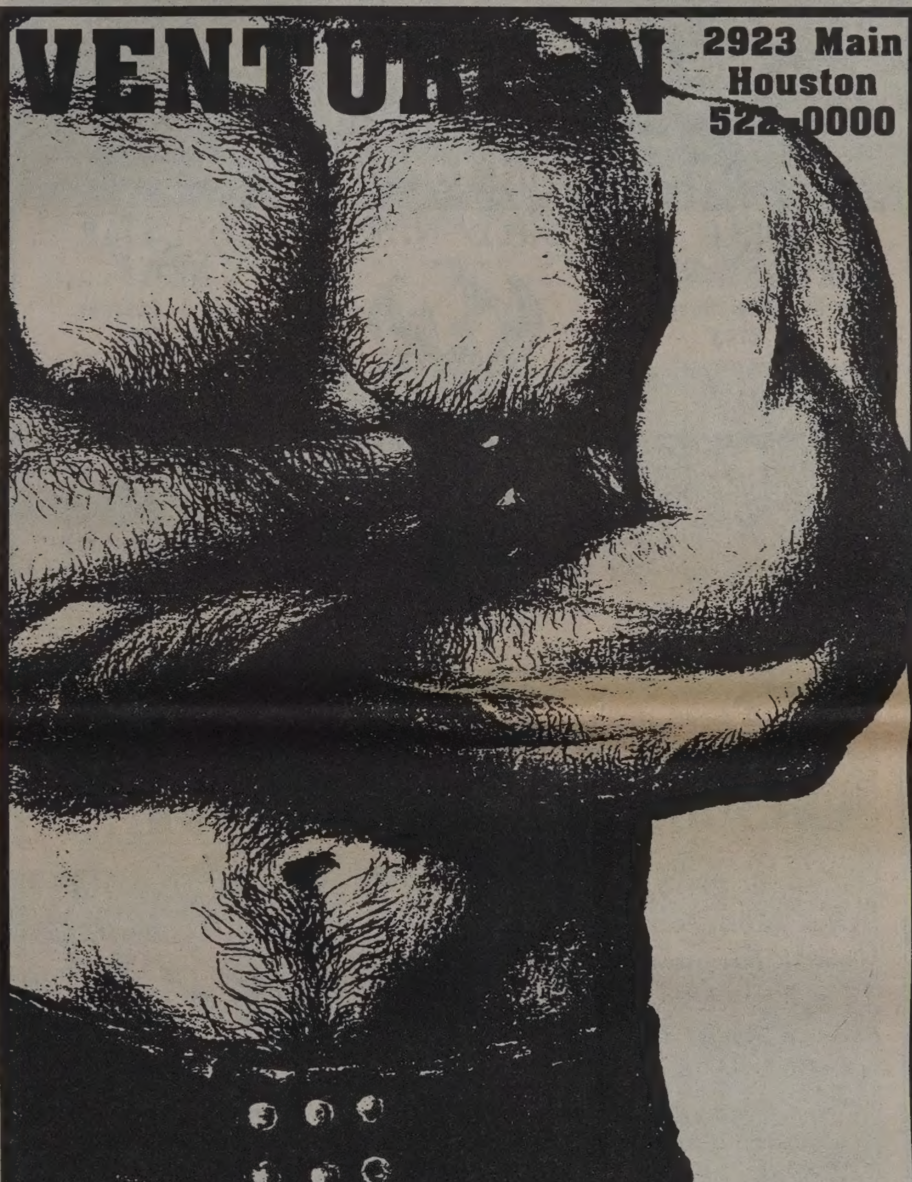

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Red Cross' HIV-AIDS Program Expands

Volunteers Needed for Instruction and Education

By MIKE RUGGERIO

The American Red Cross Hispanic HIV/AIDS Program has developed a culturally conceptualized education instructor course for outreach in the Hispanic community. The program materials were created by Hispanics in Spanish and then translated into English. This program, developed in cooperation with national Hispanic organizations, is one in a series of Red Cross programs in tandem with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to prevent the spread of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

Needed are volunteers to assist with educating the Hispanic community about AIDS awareness issues. An instructor course is being offered for those who wish to participate. The program, based on a culturally specific six module training course, helps bilingual, bicultural instructors gain skills to make interactive presentations on HIV/AIDS issues to Hispanic audiences. The course builds on the basic Red Cross instructor course and provides you with the necessary knowledge to educate and instruct accordingly. Individuals who successfully complete the training receive certifications in both courses. An additional level of training is available to prepare instructors to become instructor trainers.

The program's goal is to provide unbiased HIV/AIDS information to Hispanics in a culturally relevant manner, taking into consideration the psychosocial issues that surround this disease in the Hispanic communities and families. Its philosophy, based on the teachings of Brazilian educator Paul Freire, is one of empowerment. Instructors involve audience members in dialogue or "platica" by exchanging knowledge and encouraging them to share their interests, concerns, and everyday experiences. In this way, the facts of prevention are more meaningful to participants' own lives.

Red Cross collaborates with other organizations to deliver the program wherever there is a need—in classrooms and churches, farm fields and factories, social gatherings and community centers. The program has been extremely successful in the Hispanic communities throughout the United States, Central and South America, and the Caribbean.

The HIV/AIDS Hispanic Education Instructor Course will be offered by the Greater Houston Area Chapter Dec. 12, 13 and 14 from 8:30am-5pm. For more information about this program, registering for this course or other HIV/AIDS programs offered by the Red Cross, please contact Michael C. Ruggerio at (713) 526-8300, ext. 621.

* * *

On Your Next Visit to Houston...

What you get at the motel on the highway & what you get at the Montrose Inn

Motel: Heterosexuals with kids fighting next door.
Montrose Inn: Gay men next door. Only gay men. Nothing but gay men.

Motel: Several miles to the gay bars.
Montrose Inn: 5 tiny blocks to the gay bars.

Motel: Drive to the gay bars & pay $5 to park. Or take a $15 cab.
Montrose Inn: Walk to the gay bars. Or take a $3 cab.

Motel: Drive back from the gay bars and risk the cops making you walk the straight line. Or take a $15 cab.
Montrose Inn: Walk back from the gay bars. Or take a $3 cab.

Motel: Pay $39 to $95 a night for a room.
Montrose Inn: Pay $41 to $79 a night for a room.

Motel: Eat in their restaurant. Food for the masses. Pay plenty. $1 soft drink machine.
Montrose Inn: Complimentary late night sandwiches & full breakfast the next day. Free soft drinks, juices, coffee 24 hours.

Motel: Cruise the parking lot and get threatened.
Montrose Inn: Cruise the hallways. Please!

Motel: The receptionist sneers at you.
Montrose Inn: The receptionist winks at you.

Motel: Washing machine? Ironing board? Hair dryer? Refrigerator? Stove? Microwave? VCR & gay movies? Are you kidding?
Montrose Inn: All of the above. Free to use.

Motel: Full size bed, everything else is plastic.
Montrose Inn: Queen size bed, hardwood floors, hardly any plastic.

Motel: Maid knocking 8 a.m., you moan but she's coming in anyway. Checkout 11 a.m.
Montrose Inn: Handsome man next door knocking 11 a.m. to join him for breakfast. Checkout 1 p.m.

Reservations requested. 1-800-357-1228. The house at 408 Avondale.

The Montrose Inn is NOT a motel. We're NOT a hotel. We're a Bed & Breakfast. (And we're Basic & Butch. We're the B&B that's B&B.) We're completely different!

In The Life Explores AIDS

BY JON ANTHONY

The December edition of In The Life explores the state of AIDS in America -the toll, the challenges, the hopes and the progress. The program shows how the epidemic rages on and the different way that people respond. The responses range from activism on the street, artists on stage, families laying down quilts or people with AIDS searching for hope in new treatments.

In The Life is a non-profit newsmagazine series that airs on over 90 public television stations nationwide. It's primary focus is chronicling the history and contemporary experience of gay America. The show is hostedby Katherine Linton. Tanya Barfield, Hal German, and Darius de Haas are the correspondents. This month's edition features the following topics:

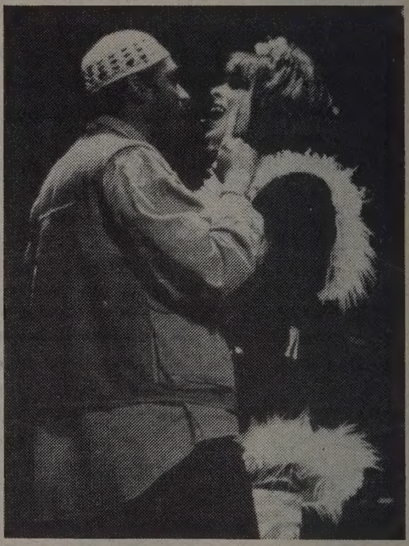
AIDS in 1996, a Look Back, a Look Ahead—A retrospective on the AIDS epidemic that runs that gamut from its inception to current events such as the protease inhibitors.

In Memoriam: Of Rage and Remembrance—Composer John Corigliano provides a powerful choral work called Of Rage and Remembrance, which stemmed from an emotional catharsis after viewing the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt in Washington, D.C. A fascinating piece.

A Day In the Life...of Michelle Lopez—An African-American lesbian mother of two who has AIDS, Michelle Lopez, story is chronicled. Her plight is poignant and disavows stereotypes of who is afflicted by the virus.

In the Arts: RENT—A synopsis of the current Broadway smash musical RENT and how it materialized. The production celebrates queer culture with honest introspection.

In the Community: That Business of "He" or "She"—A look at a burgeoning activist movement where people who challenge traditional gender roles are coming out and fighting for visibility and equal rights—the transgendered community.



Fredi Walker and Idina Menzel in a steamy number from the show.

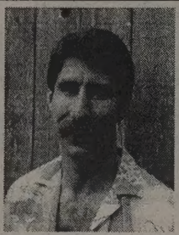
The International Gay Rodeo—The International Gay Rodeo Association is profiled from its humble beginnings in 1976 to the fixture it has become in gay culture. Filmed on location in Albuquerque, NM, the viewer sees first hand the excitement of bull riding, chute dogging, and calf roping at the national finals.

POWARS: Pet Owners with AIDS Resource Service—The final edition of this provocative show offers us a different perspective concerning AIDS. Pet Owners with AIDS Resource Service (POWARS), is an organization of volunteers that helps people with AIDS provide help for their beloved animals.

In The Life airs in Houston on PBS affiliate Channel 8 (KUHT) on Dec. 1 at Midnight. Dec. 1 is World AIDS Day. The program is a first rate production that everyone should experience.

Gay Today

by Glen Webber



Time For Thanks

I would like to thank all of you dear readers for your kind words about my recent columns. It is very gratifying indeed. I would like to add something to the column a couple of weeks ago about me getting naked and climbing up on a statue when I was eight. After that escapade, my dad gave me a nickname. Monkey boy. Twenty four years later, he still calls me that. I know it is said with love. We also heard from one of my mom's cousins, who said that the museum matron who pulled me of the statue still talks about that day. I guess I have become infamous.

For those of you who were asking me about my decision to join MCCR church, I will explain. I feel it is important to make a connection with my spiritual side. It will become one of my weapons against my AIDS. On my first visit, I was greeted by the most friendly people I have ever met. I feel MCCR will help me fill a lot of empty spaces in my life. The choir sings beautiful songs. The pastor, Reverend Johnson, is one of the most dynamic speakers I have ever had the pleasure to hear. The love for God is very evident. It is nice to meet people in a non-bar environment. I am now going through membership classes to become a member. I think, except for getting naked in the museum, this is the best decision I have ever made in my life.

With Thanksgiving coming up, I think I will take a little time off. I plan on flying up to Kansas City as guest of the family who I helped last year. If you recall, the family got word that their son and brother was seriously ill and in a coma from AIDS, when the sister arrived, she was shocked to find her brother was not only gay, but had AIDS. She saw my column in the Voice that was sitting in a reception area, and called me for advice. She also asked me to be with her the next day when Greg's mother arrived. She didn't want to be alone when she told her mother the news.

I spent the week with them, trying to help them cope. When Greg died, there were no more tears. Well, we all have become friends. They want to thank me for my help. They have invited me up to celebrate Thanksgiving with them. Because this is the first anniversary of Greg's death, it will have a lot of meaning for all of us. They sent me a plane ticket, since they know my only income is social security. I am grateful for that. Last time we talked, I asked them if it would be cold and snowy. They started laughing. Guess I will take my longjohns with me.

Thanksgiving at my family home was different from most families. We never had turkey. My dad always made pot roast. The meat was tender and juicy. I like smoked ham myself. I don't eat turkey regularly. But if I am invited to join nice people for Thanksgiving dinner, I will pig out. I know I will pig out in Kansas City. When they described all the food that will be served, I started drooling. She said there will be about twenty family members present. My folks are happy for me. We will have our Thanksgiving dinner before I fly up there.

I do want to wish all of you a happy Thanksgiving. As you celebrate with friends and family, remember all of our gay brothers who have passed on. Don't do it with sadness, but with the joy you had in knowing them. And go ahead, have seconds of everything. Then it is back to T.V. dinners.

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ICE/Cineplex Odeon Theaters Coming Soon

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Pictured after a recent press conference with Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley to announce the development of three multiplex cinemas in several Windy City neighborhoods are (from left) Allen Karp, president and CEO Cineplex Odeon, Donzell Starks, president and CEO Inner City Entertainment (ICE) and City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development Commissioner Jeff Boyle. The new state-of-the-art multiplexes, which will feature first-run Hollywood movies, will be developed and owned by ICE and operated by Toronto-based Cineplex Odeon. ICE plans to develop over 100 movie screens in underdeveloped communities of major U.S. cities during the next three years, making it the first African-American owned theatre chain in the country.

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Table Reservations: Ed Inderwish **713/683-0485**

The Assistance Fund provides financial assistance for payment of insurance premiums enabling Persons Living with AIDS to maintain continuity of their medical or dental insurance until they qualify for Medicare. Also provided is an emergency medication assistance program for those clients in transition from private insurance to Medicare.

Omega House is a residential care facility that provides hospice care to AIDS patients in the terminal phase of their illness. We provide housing as well as spiritual, psychological and palliative medical care for residents and their families, mates, and friends. Residents are generally admitted without regard for their ability pay.

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Saints' Tables for Eight - $400.00

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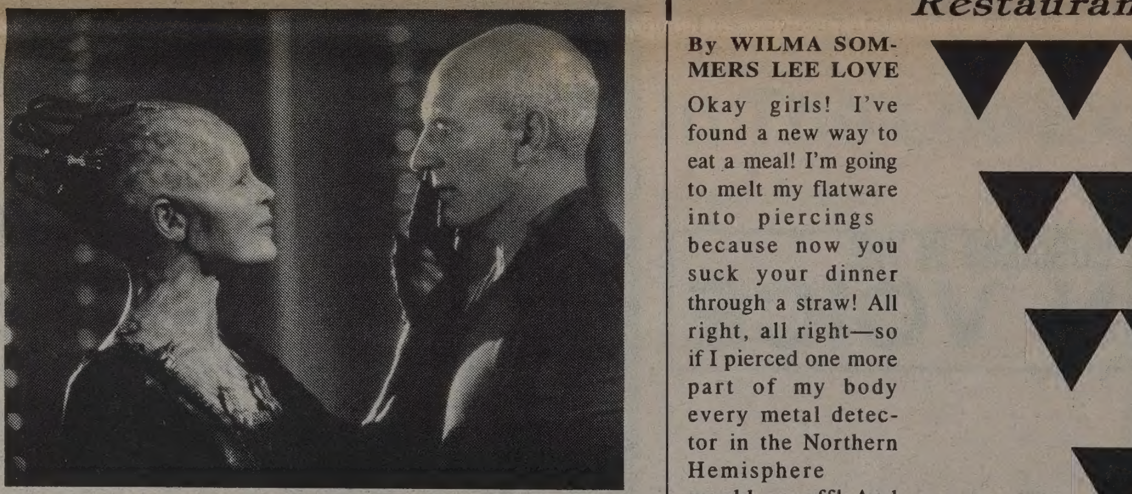
Star Trek First Contact

By CAROLYN ROBERTS

Resistance is futile, you must see this movie! In the Science-fiction action thriller, captain Jean-Luc Picard leads the crew of the newly commissioned Enterprise E in a battle against the Borg, an insidious race of half-machine, half-organic aliens, to restore the rightful future of Earth.



Picard comes face to face with the Borg Queen.

This flick has all my favorite things in it that I love about Star Trek! It has time travel, great dogfights in space, phaser rifles, sexy aliens, cool special effects, gravity boots, a new sleek bridge, big kabooms, disobeying orders from Star Fleet, holodecks, the Borg and Vulcans!

Star Trek First Contact is directed by Jonathan Frakes and stars Patrick Stewart, Jonathan Frakes, Brent Spiner, LeVar Burton, Michael Dorn, Gates McFadden, Marina Sirtis, Alfre Woodard, James Cromwell and Alice Krige.

Star Trek First Contact opens in theaters on Friday, Nov. 22. Seeing Counselor Deanna Troi under the influence of 5 or 6 shots of tequila is worth the price of admission alone!

The Samsons are Back

A British Farce Set In France!

By MIMI HOLLOWAY

Farce demands the talents of very special directors and actors—and Theatre Southwest has both these elements. Anita and David Samson, both well known in Houston for their love of farce and for their directing talents, will direct "DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER" by Marc Camoletti as the 3rd show of this 40th Anniversary season at Theatre Southwest. The show opens on Jan. 10, 1997 and runs on Fridays and Saturdays through Feb. 8 with curtain at 8pm. There will be one Sunday matinee on Jan. 19 with curtain at 3pm.

This farce, set in France, has all the hallmarks of popular British farce—a husband who plans an intimate little catered dinner with a special friend in his wife's absence, a caterer who is definitely not Julia Childs, plot twists and turns with the return of his wife—and an extra surprising twist at the end. Definitely a recipe for intrigue and action!

For reservations and group rate information call 661-9505

FORK AND SPOON

Restaurant Review

By WILMA SOMMERS LEE LOVE

▼▼▼▼

▼▼▼

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Okay girls! I've found a new way to eat a meal! I'm going to melt my flatware into piercings because now you suck your dinner through a straw! All right, all right—so if I pierced one more part of my body every metal detector in the Northern Hemisphere would go off! And when was the last time you sucked dinner through a straw??

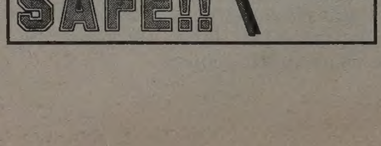
Head on down to **Chills** at 3939 Montrose and tell 'em Wilma sent ya! Owners John & Lisa Michas, of Niko Niko's fame are ready to prepare for you healthy drinks at low, low prices. Remember, all items include pure honey. Some of the drinks and their ingredients are Pineapple Paradise, composed of banana, pineapple, papaya, turbinado, fiber and soy protein equaling 325 calories or .08 grams of fat for $2.75. Cuervolyn's favorite, the Raspberry Surprise for $3.25, consists of raspberry, turbinado, fiber and soy protein for 225 calories or .02 grams of fat. Hold on to your wigs—she even enjoys the Raspberry Surprise sans the Cuervo! The Hawaiian Breeze, my favorite, sells for $2.75 and contains banana (go figure), strawberry, papaya, turbinado and fiber at only 275 calories (she can wear Fat Cher again—be very afraid!) and .06 grams of fat.

Friendly taste testers helped me out on the next two items. The Quencher for $3.25 included banana, strawberry, papaya, orange, soy protein, energy powder and electrolytes at 375 calories and .04 grams of fat. Felicia Flintstone sucked this one down and said "Yum, yum—better than a brontosaurus steak!" Regina, Damita and Stephanie all shared the Creamy & Smooth, a delicious mixture of banana, strawberry, turbinado, fiber, soy protein, non-fat milk and vanilla. At only 275 calories, .04 grams of fat and at $2.75, I got a three thumbs up! "It wasn't heavy or too sweet like some smoothies can be" said Damita. Regina was one that gave it a "thumbs up sign" and Stephanie, well we all know Stephanie as she quipped "it was soooooooo smooth." Thanks to everyone for your assistance in this endeavor.

Chills has everything from A to Z, that's Alfalfa to Zinc! They have extras for you like yohimbe (no, I'm not swearing in Swahili!), fat burners, amino fuels, ginkgo biloba and DHEA. Their hours are 10-9pm Monday thru Saturday and from 11-6pm on Sundays. Like I said, you go girls and tell 'em who sent you! I give Chill's four triangles!

RATING SCALE

▼▼▼▼ Pack my bags, I've died and gone to heaven!
▼▼▼ Pack my bags, I think I'm dying!
▼▼ Pack my overnight case, I'm only temporary!
▼ Forget the bag, call 1-800-PIZZA!



And There You Have It!

By David Richardson

Homo for the Holidays

O.K., I'll be the first to admit it. There is a very special feeling that overcomes me every year at the holiday season. I believe the correct terminology for it is...nausea. I know what you're all thinking. There must be something wrong with David if he doesn't like the holidays. Well, that is very true, but really beside the point. (I was acquitted.)

Look at the whole thing form my point of view. First off, there's this whole business with the decorations that starts in July. On Independence Day, I expect to see Uncle Sam's stars and stripes and red, white and blue everywhere I turn. Santa has no place in my summer. Agreed?

Thanksgiving generally finds me at Luby's giving thanks for not having to cook and wondering why I still haven't sent out the Christmas cards I bought back in July. Speaking of those cards, have any of you noticed that it's getting harder and harder to find the boxes with 1,800 cards for under $5.00. Now there all designer cards. Why would I want to buy cards (or clothes) with someone else's name or initials on them? Status or stupidity, you be the judge.

Thinking that a great big ol' live tree right in the middle of my living room might put me in a more festive frame of mind, I ran out to the woods and got me one. So, I set it in my house and started flinging decorations at it as if they were Ninja stars, meanwhile, feeling for all the world like Burl Ives as the pudgy snowman singing Silver and Gold (just an obscure movie reference here folks), until something I hadn't counted on started leaping out of the tree at me. Can you say tree squirrels? Can you say rabid? Can you say three weeks in the hospital and numerous shots in the stomach? I knew you could.

I do have a very strange quirk which seems to manifest itself at this time of year. It is that feeling of superiority that over comes you when you go to the mall and are able to easily pull into an available parking space that others have driven around trying to find for hours. If you gloat when this happens, know now that you are not alone.

Holiday television movies often give me reason to take animal tranquilizers. Do you really think babies would ever come out of the womb if they knew that for two months of every year for the rest of their natural lives, every television station in creation would endlessly broadcast Frank Capra's It's A Wonderful Life? I think not!

Then, of course, there's the family thing. This involves getting together with those you haven't seen in ages (possibly because they are still criticizing your lifestyle and hinting for grandchildren?). Of course, there are some families that get along just fine and are happy. I've never seen one personally, but I guess if I can believe in God and the Easter Bunny, why stop there. Right?

Lastly, let me talk about gifts. Someone once said that "it is the thought that counts." This person was, to put it politely, full of it. To be more accurate, the thought counts if you are given a sports car, a deed to a house or a lot of money. The thought does not count for tickets to a Shaun Cassidy reunion concert, ugly not-in-your-size clothing and subscriptions to magazines you wouldn't even read in a fit of desperation at the doctor's office. The latter is to be excused if the publication in question has one of my columns in it, in which case you should build an altar to it and worship it daily.

So, now you all know that I have joined Scrooge, the Grinch and a long line of others in blasting the holidays. Yet, like them, I may have a change of heart. You can aid in this by sending the sports car keys to me c/o this publication. If you have to send a tacky gift—don't worry, as it will give me something to hurl at the tree squirrels besides my nuts (no—it's too easy, don't go there!). Happy holidays to you and yours...And, there you have it!

Twelfth Night is First Rate

By DAVID RICHARDSON

Cross dressing, gender bending, passion and comedy are usually confined to movies with a modern theme, however the late William Shakespeare may have very well penned this season's most exciting film to deal with these issues to date.

Two fraternal twins, Viola (Imogen Stubbs) and Sebastion (Stephen Mackintosh) are separated during a shipwreck, where they happen to be performing a drag show for entertainment of the passengers. Both end up in country known as Illyria and both believe the other to be dead. Viola disguises herself as a boy in order to serve the Countess Olivia, who is in mourning as her own brother has died. In order to do this, Viola becomes a soldier in the house the Duke Orssini who is relentlessly pursuing the Countess (played by a beauteous Helena Bonham Carter). The Duke sends Viola, now known as "Cesario" to woo the Countess in his behalf, but somehow the Countess falls in love with Cesario instead. Cesario meanwhile, is having affections for the Count and it sets up one of the most hilarious love triangles in recent years. The hilarity is aided by a marvelous supporting cast which includes Imelda Staunton, Mel Smith, Richard Grant and a surprising comic turn by Ben Kingsley (Ghandi).

Mayhem, merriment and a happy ending result when the brother thought dead arrives at the home of the Countess. Also not to be missed is Nigel Hawthorne (The Madness of King George) as the snooty steward Malvolio who gets his comeuppance at the end of the film.

Not as maudlin or dark as many of the Bards works, this movie makes one wish the sun would never come up on the Twelfth Night. This movie rates ****.

Volunteers Needed

The Houston Voice has need of a number of people to work on a voluntary basis. Positions include artists, cartoonists, reporters, reviewers, proofreaders (needed on Wednesdays), help with distribution, and various other tasks as needed. We offer a progressive "Out" environment, some job training and a great group of folks to hang out with, besides it will look good on your resume some day to have this work experience. Interested? Contact the Editor, Deborah Bell at 529-8490.

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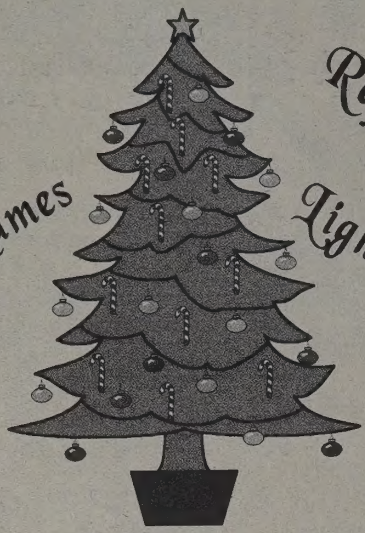


A Night of Music Celebrating Life

Music

Refreshments

Reading of Names

Lighting of Tree

Tree of Remembrance

Sunday, December 1, 1996, 6:30 PM

City of Houston, Metropolitan Multi-Service Center
1475 West Gray

Sponsored by:

Metropolitan Multi-Service Center
Body Positive
Garden Party
Houston Names Project

Homosexual Marriages in Arkansas

By JAMES JEFFERSON

LITTLE ROCK (AP) Moving to follow a new federal law, lawmakers filed legislation Friday that would ban same-sex marriages in Arkansas. The measure was among the first bills pre-filed in the House to be introduced in the Arkansas General Assembly that convenes Jan. 13. Arkansas family law defines marriage as a civil contract between consenting parties. A provision relating to issuing a marriage license to under age persons contain age requirements for the male and female, the only reference to gender. The proposed bill would declare that "marriage shall be only between a man and a woman" and would void marriage between people of the same sex. The state would not recognize same-sex marriages performed out of state by people who move to Arkansas.

"What (gays) do in the privacy of their own bedroom is their business, but I don't feel like it's something that I want to recognize as being legal and right" said the lead sponsor, Rep. Doug Kidd, D-Benton. "The state of Arkansas should not recognize that as a marriage." Kidd said the bill is an outgrowth of scores of calls he received from constituents in his central Arkansas district during the hot debate on the federal ban passed by Congress.

The federal legislation, signed by President Clinton in the middle of a night in September, denies federal recognition to homosexual marriages. At the time, he said the bill he was signing "confirms the right of each state to determine its own policy" on same-gender marriage.

Co-sponsors of the Arkansas ban are Reps. Ray Stalnaker, D-Little Rock; Michael Davis, D-Ravenden Springs; Pat Flanagin, D-Forrest City; and Rep.-elect Shane Broadway, D-Bryant.

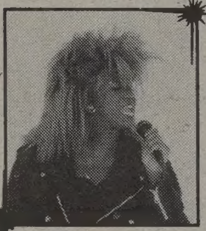
Debra Bailey of the Arkansas Gay and Lesbian Task Force said the state's homosexual community was not surprised by Kidd's bill and would fight it as a matter of social justice.

She said homosexuals "absolutely" have a moral right to marry.

"The basis for the far right is that homosexual behavior is promiscuous and dangerous. Yet we have people who are building families on morals and values who want to live within those moral guidelines," Ms. Bailey said. "Whether or not a person chooses marriage to sanction their relationships, all people should have that right." Ms. Bailey said her organization has about 2000 members statewide, many of whom live in unions performed in private ceremonies that are not recognized legally.

Guidelines for community organizations or individual writers interested in having articles printed in The Houston Voice. Please stop by or send a selfaddressed stamped business size envelope to:

Guidelines
811 Westheimer #105
Houston, TX 77006.



11/23 Star Studded Saturday Show ★ 11:00pm ★

Hostess

Roxanne
Lee Love

Shelby St. John
Miss Zack
Kara Dion
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We LePhants wish everyone a Happy & Safe Thanksgiving!
I love to stuff my trunk!

FRI	11/22	MALE STRIP CONTEST at 11:00pm with Paivi
SAT	11/23	SATURDAY SHOW at 11:00pm with Roxanne
SUN	11/24	$1 Budweiser & Bud Light All Day All Night
MON	11/25	MALE STRIP CONTEST at 11:00pm with Paivi
TUE	11/26	Amateur/Talent Night at 11:00pm with Dyan Michaels
WED	11/27	Granny's Burgers

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South of the Border Night
Thursday November 28
11:00pm
Paivi Lee Love,
Roxanne
Lee Love,
Dyan Michaels
ALSO Granny's Tacos!

Hostess

Rashelle Stevens

Looney 'Space Jam' Not In Tune

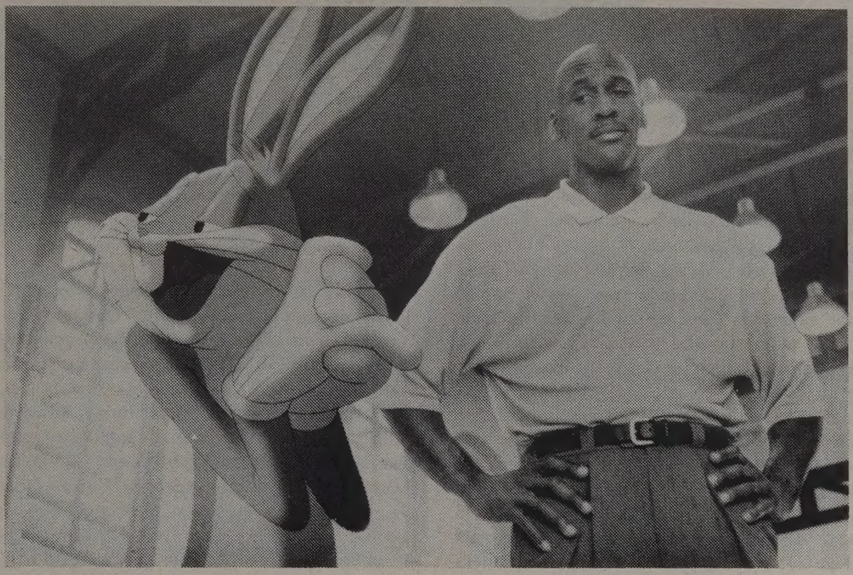
Bugs and Jordan Disappoint

By CHRISTOPHER RUNDQUIST

When Michael Jordan's business manager and personal attorney David Falk, along with his partner Ken Ross, approached Warner Bros. with the concept of having their client star in a feature film with the legendary Looney Tunes characters, Warner Bros. embraced the idea with a fervor. The studio had long been searching for a vehicle for the lucrative "Tunes" franchise. The result is *Space Jam* , which opened nationwide last weekend.

Space Jam is the latest in the line of combination 'animation/live-action' movies that have been released in recent years (i.e. Who Framed Roger Rabbit, Cool World, etc.) Unfortunately Space Jam does not live up to its hyperbolic expectations, critically or commercially. This is somewhat surprising considering the talent behind this production. Produced by Ivan Reitman (Ghostbusters, Twins), the film was directed by commercial king Joe Pytka and the animation sequences were produced by Cinesite—founded by Ed Jones, who won an Oscar for his work on Who Framed Roger Rabbit.

This movie is a pre-sold product that will bring in huge grosses, primarily due to the stunt casting. Michael Jordan is one of the largest sports figures in modern history and the Looney Tunes gang are, arguably, the most popular cartoon personalities in the history of film. In fact the cast of characters are the most impressive thing about this movie. All of the Looney Tunes gang is depicted. Bugs, Daffy, Taz, Tweety & Sylvester, and Porky Pig grace us with their presence in primary roles while the rest of the gang make the requisite cameo appearances. Danny DeVito supplies the voice of Swackhammer (the bad guy) and Billy West (of Ren & Stimpy fame) provides the voice of Bugs Bunny. (I will probably never get used to hearing Looney Tunes without the late Mel Blanc doing the voices). The Human characters are led by Michael Jordan (Duh), with Wayne Knight (Newman on Seinfeld) and Theresa Randle in starring roles. The film is laden with cameos including: Bill Murray, Larry Bird, Patrick Ewing, Charles Barkley, Muggsey Bogues, Larry Johnson and Shawn Bradley.


Bugs Bunny and Michael Jordan in *Space Jam* .

The premise of this misguided film can be summarized in brief due to its lack of originality. Seems our man Bugs is in a jam. When the Nerdlucks land on Earth, the tiny space creatures set out to kidnap the Looney Tunes and bring them to their planet Moron Mountain. Their ruler, Swackhammer, has a theme park that is failing and thinks the gang can solve his dilemma. Bugs decides to challenge the Nerdlucks to a basketball tournament under the condition that if they win, they can stay on Earth and if they loose...well you get the idea. What Bugs did not count on was that the aliens have the ability to siphon some of basketballs greatest talent, hence the aforementioned NBA cameos. Interestingly, the Nerdlucks did not siphon the incomparable Michael Jordan but Bugs did. Once Jordan understands their predicament, he joins their team and the game begins with the Looney Tunes fate in hand.

The problem with this movie, is that it is nothing more than 90 minutes of one liners and basketball highlights. The real crime is that the Looney Tunes were barely used to support the story (which has more to do with the biography of Jordan's career than the battle between Bugs Bunny and the evil space aliens). This movie could have been made using Michael Jordan and the Smurfs and still had the same effect.

Space Jam is mildly amusing and most children and basketball fans will love it. However, if you are a true die-hard purist Looney Tunes fan, this two and a half star film will disappoint you.

Note: Houstonian Chris Rundquist has joined the Houston Voice as a contributing film critic. You can e-mail him at HouVoice@AOL.com.

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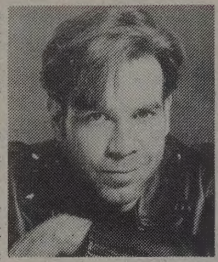
http://www.hic.net/ripcord/journal.htm

This & That...

by Jon Anthony



Gay actor/comic **Jason Stuart** returns to Houston at the LaffStop this week. Stuart will be performing through this Sunday, Nov. 24. All proceeds from the show will be donated to the AIDS Foundation Houston. Call the Laffstop at 524-2333 for details. Stuart just completed filming on the upcoming *National Lampoon's Vegas Vacation* with **Chevy Chase**.... **Suzanne Pleshette** has been signed to portray **Jonathan Silverman**'s mother on NBC's hit comedy *The Single Guy* and **Brenda Vaccaro** has been tapped to portray Matt's mom on the networks powerhouse franchise *Friends*. Vaccaro can also be seen in **Barbara Streisand**'s new movie *The Mirror Has Two Faces*.... **Richard Gere** and the legendary **Sidney Poitier** have been added to the cast of *The Day of the Jackal*. **Bruce Willis** heads the cast in this remake of the 1973 classic.... *The Three Tenors* will be arriving in Houston in what promises to be a major concert event. **Luciano Pavarotti**, **Placido Domingo** and **Jose Carreras** will perform live March 16 at the Houston Astrodome.... The Broadway revival of the 1975 musical *Chicago* is drawing raves from the critics and generating impressive box-office revenue. Broadway legend **Ann Reinking** and **Bebe Neuwirth** (Cheers) helm the show.... And the Oscar host this year will be **Billy Crystal**. Sorry Rosie! This marks Crystal's fifth turn as host. The gala show airs March 24.... CBS has canceled the low rated **Scott Bakula** romantic spy adventure *Mr. & Mrs. Smith*. The network will air specials until Jan. 3 when *JAG* premieres, JAG was snagged by CBS after NBC opted not to renew the series last season.... ABC has reshuffled it's Wednesday night line-up. Beginning Dec. 4, the network will move *Grace Under Fire* to 7pm, followed by *Townies*. *The Drew Carry Show* will anchor the evening at 8pm and *Ellen* will follow at 8:30pm. *PrimeTime Live* remains in its original time period at 9pm. Speculation abounds that by moving Ellen to a later time period, ABC′ is seriously considering allowing the lesbian plot to unfold. Of all the shows, Drew Carry draws the largest viewership and ABC hopes that the rest of the line-up can ride on his coattails.... The Divine Miss M, **Bette Midler**, will tape a concert event for airing on HBO. *Bette Midler - Diva Las Vegas* will air Jan. 19. Midler is currently on a cross-country tour that is selling to capacity crowds.... The wait is over. The symbol man, formerly known as **Prince**, has released a slamming new 36 song compact disc titled *Emancipation*. Advance word on the album has garnered good buzz. The set is available at most music outlets. The first single from the disc is *Betcha By Golly Wow!*.... **Tim Allen** will star in the comedy caper *For Richer or Poorer*. The Universal Pictures release, about a New York real estate hustler and his socialite wife who hide out in the Amish community to avoid the IRS, is currently in pre-production.... **The Four Tops** will receive the Lifetime Achievement award at next years Rhythm and Blues Foundation gala on Feb. 27. **Smokey Robinson** and the **Spinners** will be honored with Pioneer Award's among others.... **Chaka Khan** is busy penning her autobiography, *I'm Every Woman*, due next year. During the interim Kahn has released a new album *Epiphany: The Best of Chaka Khan, Vol. 1*. Epiphany is comprised of 11 classic Chaka tunes and five new songs, including the R&B smash *Missing You* featuring **Brandy**, **Tamia** and **Gladys Knight**, from the soundtrack of the new **Queen Latifah** movie *Set It Off*.... *Pre-Madonna* (interact Entertainment Group) will be available Nov. 29. The collection of nine songs **Madonna** recorded in 1981-82 with **Stephen Bray** prior to becoming a national icon can be ordered by calling 800-427-6669. For a sample of cuts you can log on the internet at http://www.1800harmony.com.... Rocker **Stevie Nicks** is on unfriendly terms with the IRS. Uncle Sam is seeking $85,887 from Nicks claiming she took improper deductions for makeup and clothes.... **Bob Keeshan** will return as the host of a syndicated children's program next spring. Keeshan was known to the baby boomers as *Captain Kangaroo* for nearly 40 years.... **Lena Horne** will be the subject of an upcoming PBS American Masters program. Horne is a legendary chanteuse who confronted racism during her illustrious career from Harlem's Cotton Club through major headliner and film star..... **Bob Hope's** final special *Laughing with the Presidents* will air Saturday Nov. 23 on NBC. Guests include co-host **Tony Danza**, **Ann-Margret**, **Tom Selleck**, **Naomi Judd** and **Don Johnson**.... CBS offers viewers a riveting remake of the compelling **Truman Capote** tome *In Cold Blood* this Sunday Nov. 24. **Anthony Edwards** and **Eric Roberts** star in this chilling tale of small town tragedy.... **Making the Rounds:** A slimmer **Delta Burke** guests on this weeks *Touched by an Angel* in a two-part story that concludes on *Promise Land* on Tuesday Nov. 26 at 7pm. Angel airs at 7pm. on Nov. 24. Both shows are on CBS. Burke's husband **Gerald McRainey** stars in Land. Drew & Mimi (The Drew Carey Show) invade metropolis on an amusing episode of ABC's *Lois & Clark* Sunday Nov. 24 at 7pm. Visiting **Rosie O'Donnell** this week: **Glenn Cloe** and **David Copperfield** (Nov. 25); **Angela Lansbury** (Nov. 26); **Dolly Parton** and **Tyne Daly** (Nov. 27); **Cybill Shepard** and *Rent* star **Adam Pascal** (Nov. 28). **Oprah Winfrey** welcomes **Sylvester Stallone** on Nov. 25 and **Tom Hanks** on Nov. 28. NBC's powerhouse Tuesday night must-see-TV programs has line-up an impressive array of guests for Nov. 26. **Bob Barker** and **Shirley Jones** drop in on *Something So Right*, **Bebe Neuwirth** reprises her role of Lilith on *Frasier* and **Judd Hirsch** guests on *Caroline in the City*. Dolly Parton visits with **David Letterman** on Nov. 26 at 10:35pm on CBS' Late Show. Soprano **Jessye Norman** chats with **Katie Couric** on NBC's Today Show on Nov. 28 at 7am. **Scott Turow** will be speaking at the Houston Club on Nov. 25 during a luncheon. Call 225-1661, ext. 215 for details.... **Top of the Charts:** The hottest selling album is *The Don Killuminati: The 7 Day Theory* by **Makaveli**. *No Diggity* by **Blackstreet** featuring **Dr. Dre**. is the hottest single according to Billboard. Exhibitor Relations reports that *Space Jam* rocketed past the competition (**Mel Gibson**'s *Ransom*) to catapult to number one at the box office with $30 million in gross ticket sales. Ransom was second with $23 million and *The Mirror Has Two Faces* grossed $12million for third. NBC's *E.R.* was the highest rated show of the week according to the Nielsens Ratings. *The Deep End of the Ocean* by *Jacquelyn Mitchard* is the #1 book on the fiction chart and *The Soul's Code* by **James Hillman** tops the non-fiction list on The New York Times best-seller list. **Quote of the Week:** *"What does she have to do? I think she's got showmanship, she's beautiful, she can sing. It's almost like everybody is jealous of her success and I don't like that."* - **Reba McEntire** on **Shania Twain**, one of her contemporaries, not getting the award recognition she deserves despite selling 10 million copies of her debut album.

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Rainbow Reader

By JONE DEVLIN

In "Going Down" by Jennifer Belle we are introduced to a year or so in the life of Benningon Bloom. Bennington is 27 years old, Jewish, and a child of divorced parents who is obsessed with her weight, her lack of a boyfriend and living in New York. She isn't getting along with her father, doesn't want to be around her mother, and has no use for her brother. Meanwhile her second semester at NYU is coming up, and with it a $9000 bill. So what's a girl to do? Become a hooker of course!

It all starts when Bennington sees an ad in the Village Voice requesting COED$. She decides to apply, telling herself she will be a "non sexual escort" and besides, she really really really needs money, and fast.

Meanwhile, her gay roommate has just robbed his latest trick (a standard practice with him) and Bennington decides she's had enough. So, after spending the night in the bottom of a pool with some homeless people she knows, she cons a friend from school into letting her stay in her dorm room over Christmas vacation and becomes an "escort." Things go well at first. She doesn't mind the work, loves the money and earns enough to pay for her entire NYU semester in cash. Then the proprietress of the business decides Bennington is after her husband and fires her on her birthday no less.

At first she is optimistic, but soon money worries take over. We quickly learn that the reason Bennington needs so much money is that she spends so much money. She decides to join a "house" this time around, a place that proves to be not nearly as classy as the escort service. She has her doubts, but she really really really needs the money and fast, so decides to stick it out. Finally after putting up with all kinds of abuse from the owner and her assistant, as well as finding herself involved in scenes that are too wild even for her, she gives up and moves on determined to get herself a "legitimate" job and to stay away from hooking for good this time.

But it seems no matter what happens, Bennington, by nature a con artist, can't seem to stay away from the business. Trips to Martha's Vineyard with a lesbian artist friend, working in an off Broadway show, seeing a psychologist, and falling madly in love with a rich country squire who is making definite noises about marriage are not enough to keep Bennington from the world's oldest profession, even as she keeps repeating her mantra that as soon as she saves enough money she'll quit for good.

Eventually her true love finds out about what she really does for a living and dumps her. She is depressed, she is devastated, she quits. ...she ends up meeting another man, and wondering to herself what she is going to do for funds since she really really really needs money and fast.

Packed with a cast of truly unforgettable characters and situations (all as seen and lived through the irrepressible Bennington) "Going Down" is not a book that you will forget easily. Especially since Belle writes about New York and it's people in a way only a native can.

Hilarious, sad, sometimes poignant and occasionally depressing, "Going Down" is a wonderful story and a lot like real life.

Controversial Film Hits Houston

Zelinsky's FUN Plays This Weekend

By DAVID RICHARDSON

The Rice Media Center will present the controversial new film, FUN, by Rafael Zelinsky. The film centers on Hillary and Bonnie (played by Alicia Witt and Renee Humphrey, respectively), two teenage girls who embark on a crime spree which includes murdering an elderly woman. Not your typical female buddy move, this film deals with issues that border homicidal, homosocial and homosexual.

The action takes place in the suburbs of Los Angeles, California, where the two troubled teens meet. After sharing mutual adolescent anguish and angst, the pair vent their frustrations in an increasingly violent manner throughout the film. This movie has received critical acclaim from many sources including The Sundance Film Festival, the Village Voice, the Washington Post and many more. Congratulations to the Rice Media Center for being willing to take a chance on subject matter not necessarily considered mainstream and shunned by traditional theater outlets. Fun will be shown this weekend only. Times are as follows: Friday and Saturday, Nov. 22 and 23 at 7:30pm and 9:30pm. Sunday, Nov. 24 at 7:30pm.

Welcome New Advertisers!

By CAROLYN ROBERTS

The Houston Voice welcomes the Fitness Exchange and Psychic Predictions by Dora to our family of advertisers. We welcome back to our family Niko Niko's, Heights Above Florist, and Java Java Cafe

The Fitness Exchange is opening a Montrose location in a few weeks. They are offering a buy one-get one free grand opening special. They have tons of new equipment. Check out their ad on the back page of this issue.

Let Dora's 35 years experience and accuracy unravel the secrets, arts, and mysteries of Psychic phenomenons answering all your questions on love, relationship, and career. Check out Dora's ad on page 25.

Niko Niko's, a Montrose favorite invites you to do something warm and fuzzy for the holidays! Bring in a blanket or coat to be donated to the Star of Hope and you will receive 25% off your delicious meal at Niko Niko's. Check out their ad on page 2.

Java Java Cafe and Heights Above Florist is nestled in the Heights at 911 W. 11th. The atmosphere is delightful with all the plants and flowers. Check out their ad on page 25.

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Church Calendar of Events

Friday-11/22

* "Your Sacred Self" study group using the best seller by Wayne Dyer. COME learn more about your sacred self, sacred sisters & brothers, & the sacred, loving Creator God who made it so. At Kingdom Community Church 862-7533

* Catholic Mass at 10:00 am. Kolbe Project 522-8182

Saturday-11/23

* Mass at Dignity Houston at 7:30 pm. 880-2872.

Sunday-11/24

* Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church Services "A Study in the Gospel of Mark" and "The 'I' Factor," (How to be a positive influence on others as a witness for Christ) at 10:00 am Praise and Worship, Ministry of the Word, Drama and Personal Ministry. 11:00 am at Maranatha Fellowship 528-6756

* MCCR worship services 9:00 am & 11:00 am 861-9149

* Worship Service 11:00 am at Faith and Hope Fellowship 773-4429

* Grace Lutheran Church Sunday school for all ages at 9:30 am Worship Service at 10:30 am 528-3269

* First Unitarian Universalist Church Sunday Services at 9:30 am and 11:30 am 526-5200

* Services at 5:30 pm Dignity Church 880-2872

* Community Gospel worship service at 11:00 am & 7:00 pm. SERVICE IN NEW LOCATION, 4305 LILLIAN 880-9235

* Houston Mission Church worship service at 10:30 am 529-8225

* Kingdom Community Church worship service at 11:00 am Sunday School at 10:00 am 862-7533 "The Celestine Prophecy, An Experiential Guide" at 10:00 am

* Covenant Baptist Church Worship service 1:30 pm and education hour at 3:00 pm 668-8830

* Bering Memorial United Methodist Church Worship service. 10:50 am Seekers class 9:15 am 526-1017

* Church of the XII Apostles worship service at 10:00 am. Chapel of the Santana Funeral Home, 5352 Katy Freeway. 665-7903.

Monday-11/25

* Catholic Mass at 7:30 pm Kolbe Project 522-8182

* MCCR Handbell Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 pm 861-9149

Tuesday-11/26

* MCCR: Empowerment for Living support group & pot luck dinner at 6:00 pm, Gloryland Singers at 8:00 pm, The Gospel Ensemble at 6:00 pm 861-9149

* PROTECT meets at Bering Church. 520-7870.

*HIV Affected group meets at 7:00 pm. Judy or Pam at 880-9235; HIV Infected group meets at 7:00 pm. Catherine or Robert at 880-9235. At Community Gospel.

* Maranatha Fellowship MCC has home groups that meet in each others home for a time of fellowship, sharing God's word, and prayer. Call for the location in your area 528-6756.

Wednesday 11/27

* MCCR Bible Study 7:30 pm 861-9149

* Worship Service 7:30 pm at Faith and Hope Fellowship 773-4429

* MCCR: Jubilation Mixed Ensemble meets at 6:30 pm Midweek uplift service at 7:00 pm, Bible Study, Lecture Series & Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm 861-9149

* "A Course in Miracles"—Study Group using the book, published by the Foundation for Inner Peace, which is aimed at removing the blocks to our awareness of one's presence. Kingdom Community Church 7:30 pm 862-7533.

* "Coming Out to Yourself" at Kolbe Project. 7:30 pm. 522-8182.

Thursday-10/28

* Advent Service at the Kolbe Project at 7:30.

* Bible Study 7:00 pm At Faith And Hope Fellowship 773-4429

* Community Gospel midweek service 7:30 pm 880-9325

If you want an event listed in this section, please call 529-8490

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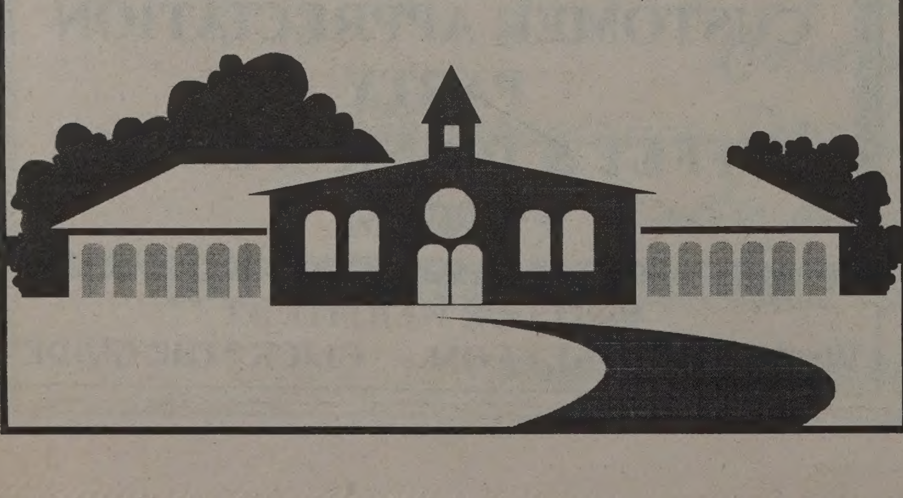

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GLAAD lines

Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation

GLAAD Honors Corporate Leaders With Fairness Awards

On Tuesday, Nov. 19 at Noon, GLAAD will honor HBO's Sheila Nevins and the law firm of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom with its first Fairness Awards, established to honor a long-term commitment to fairness by leading supporters of equal rights nationwide. The Awards will be presented during a luncheon at the Rainbow Room. "The tireless work of Sheila Nevins and the attorneys of Skadden, Arps clearly shows how our nation's corporate and cultural landscape has grown to embrace all Americans-including lesbians and gay men," said Peggy Brady, Co-Chair of GLAAD's Board of Directors. "GLAAD's Fairness Awards honor them with recognition from their peers and the public at large for their work to end intolerance and bigotry and to promote fairness." For more information contact Alan Klein (GLAAD) at (212) 807-1700.

Illinois Governor Forbids Anti-Gay Discrimination

On Nov. 13, Illinois Governor Jim Edgar issued an Administrative Order forbidding discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in all employment decisions of Illinois state agencies. "This policy sends a strong message that discrimination against anyone, including gays and lesbians, is not acceptable," said Rick Garcia, Director of the Illinois Federation for Human Rights, a statewide organization for lesbian and gay civil rights. "This demonstrates that the governor recognizes that a discrimination-free workplace is a productive workplace." The Order is expected to help significantly in the effort to pass a bill against anti-gay discrimination in the state. For more information contact Rick Garcia (Illinois Federation for Human Rights) at (217) 544-3401.

Dornan's Re-Election Bid...a "B-1" Bomb

After his GOP presidential nomination bid crash landed, virulently anti-gay Representative Bob Dornan (R-Calif.) now finds himself being ambushed in his own backyard. Latina business consultant Loretta Sanchez, formerly a Republican but now a conservative Democrat, has claimed victory in the neck-and-neck struggle for Dornan's Orange County seat in the House of Representatives. Her lead has fluctuated since Nov. 12 between 700 and near 1000 votes, with only a few thousand provisional ballots left to count. "For 20 years, Dornan has just been a thorn in so many people's sides—homophobic, attacking the environment, attacking everything," said Bob Mullholland, policy advisor to the California Democratic party. Dornan, for his part, is reportedly charging voter fraud, and suspects large numbers of non-citizens voted. He is demanding an investigation into the matter. Final county results will be announced by Nov. 26. For more information contact David Smith (Human Rights Campaign) at (202) 628-4160.

Virginia College Activists Rally As School Reconsiders Gay Center

Today, Nov. 18, students at George Mason University (GMU) in Fairfax, Virginia, held a rally to support the formation of a lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender resource center. Citing Virginia's sodomy law, the GMU Board of Visitors voted on Sept. 18 to withhold a previously approved $15,000 in funding for the center. The Board of Visitors will reconsider their vote to pull funding at the next Board meeting on Nov. 20. After the last vote, Board rector Marvin Murray stated that, "the activities of these (gay) people are illegal in Virginia. ...The University ought not to be spending resources supporting that sort of activity." For more information contact Beth Armitage (GMU) at (703) 993-2851 or e-mail: barmitag@osf1.gmu.edu.

L.A. Gay and Lesbian Center Celebrates 25 Years

The Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center is holding its 25th Anniversary Ball on Nov. 23, to celebrate 25 years of service to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. At the event, the Center will also honor Elton John and MTV President Judy McGrath with its highest honor, the Rand Schrader Distinguished Achievement Award. They will be presented by Elizabeth Taylor and Courtney Love respectively. The award recognizes an outstanding individual for courageously championing gay and lesbian equality, significantly promoting gay and lesbian health and/or greatly enhancing the visibility of lesbian and gay people. Over 1500 supporters and celebrities are expected to attend the gala event. For more information contact Jim Key or Mike Ausiello (The Center) at (213) 860-7357.

To report events that merit media coverage, or news stories breaking in your area, please contact us. The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) is the nation's lesbian & gay news bureau and the only national lesbian & gay multimedia watchdog organization. GLAAD promotes fair, accurate, and inclusive representation as a means of challenging discrimination based on sexual orientation or identity. To subscribe contact Don Romesburg at (415) 861-2244 or at romesburg@glaad.org. "GLAAD" and "Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation" are trademarks of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, Inc.

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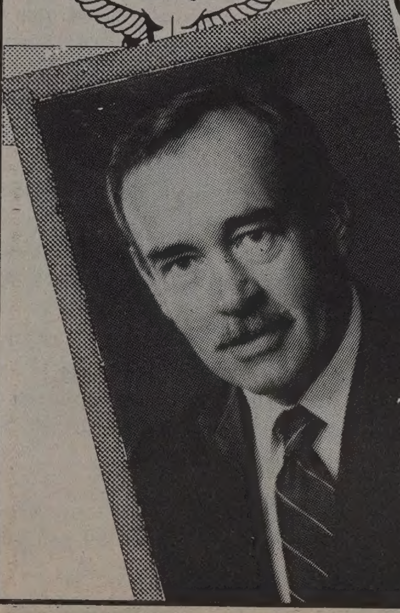

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Fri., Nov. 22, 9pm
Jennifer Ellsworth, Candidate for Empress XIII presents

Birthday Blow-Out & Drag Show Celebration!

Tonight's entertainment is a fundraiser for Soiree Aubergine!

Sun., Nov. 24
Happy 4th Anniversary Ofilia & Janis!
We wish you many more happy tomorrows!

Thursday., Nov. 28, We open at 10:00 am

Happy Thanksgiving!

Come by and share lunch with us! Bring a dish that you enjoy preparing and celebrate the holiday with friends!

P.S.
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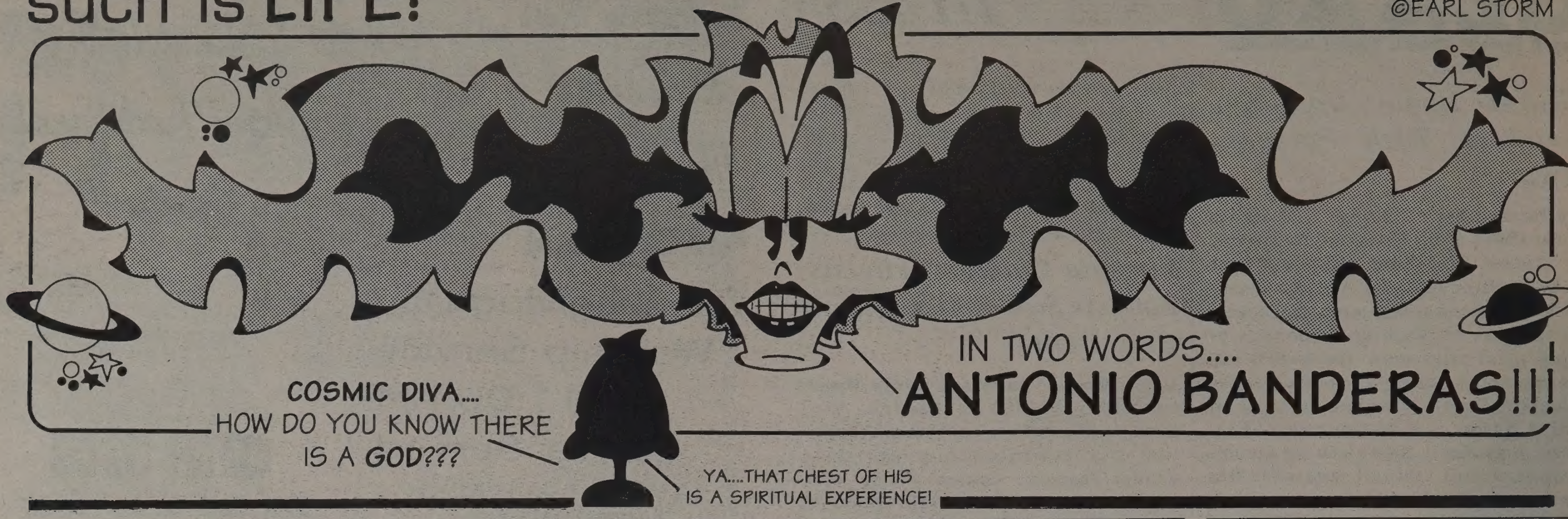

COSMIC DIVA....
HOW DO YOU KNOW THERE
IS A GOD???
IN TWO WORDS....
ANTONIO BANDERAS!!!
YA....THAT CHEST OF HIS
IS A SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE!

Community Calendar

If you would like an event listed in this section, please feel free to call 529-8490 or fax at 529-9531.

Friday, Nov. 22

* Borders Book Store Gay/Lesbian Book Club meets at the Espresso Bar at 9634 Westheimer. 782-6066.

* HIV+ Art classes at the Art League. 523-8817

* HATCH meets. 942-7002.

* 12-step program at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 pm. 529-0037.

* Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 pm. 529-0037.

* Houston Tennis Club meets at 7:15 pm. 537-1348.

* Q-Patrol meets to walk the streets at 10:30 pm. 528-SAFE.

* AIDS Mastery workshop starts. 861-6453.

* Free Spaying and Neutering Program. 522-2337.

* Film at the Museum of Fine Arts: USSR/CIS Cinema at 7:30 pm. 639-7515.

Saturday, Nov. 23

* Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club rides. 863-1860.

* After Hours on KPFT 12:00 am to 3:00 am. 90.1 FM. 526-5738.

* Gulf Coast Transgender support group meets. 780-4282.

* Q-Patrol meets to walk the streets at 10:30 pm. 528-SAFE.

* Visual Art Alliance meets at 10:00 am. 583-8408.

* Autumn's Seasons Bondage Club discussion group meets at 10:30 am. 788-5593.

* Film at the Museum of Fine Arts: Night of the Filmmakers (Die Nacht Der Regisseure) at 7:30 pm. 639-7515.

Sunday, Nov. 24

* Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club meets. 863-1860.

* The Women's Group meets at 10:45 am. 529-8571.

* FrontRunners meet at 9:00 am at the Tennis center in Memorial Park. 522-8021.

* HATCH meets. 942-7002.

* Inner Loop Sunday Bowling League. 522-9612.

* Rainbow Fishing Club goes fishing. 523-6381.

Monday, Nov. 25

* Free HIV Testing and counseling by the Montrose Clinic at the Brazos River Bottom. 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

* Gay Fathers/Fathers First support group. 8:00 pm. 861-6181.

* Calendar/Computer workshop for Pride Week. 7:00 pm. 529-1223.

* Positive Living Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 2:15 pm. 539-0037.

* Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 pm. 529-0037.

* Women and HIV/AIDS Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:15 pm. 529-0037.

* Men Survivors of Sexual Abuse Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:15 pm. 529-0037.

* Lesbian Survivors of Cancer and their care givers at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 pm. 529-0037.

* Men's HIV Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 pm. 529-0037.

* AVES sponsored free HIV testing from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm at 4125 SW Freeway, Suite 1717.

* The Spay/Neuter Assistance Program offers low cost services. 522-2337.

* Gay and Lesbian readers group meets at Barnes and Nobles at 7:00 pm. 349-0050.

Tuesday, Nov. 26

* Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous meets at 239 Westheimer. 8:00 pm. 495-8009.

* Basic Computer Skills Class at the Kolbe Project. 522-8182.

* Gay Men HIV+ Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 4:30 pm. 529-0037.

* Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 pm. 529-0037.

* Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 pm. 529-0037.

* AIDS Alliance of the Bay Area meets at 7:00 pm. 488-4492.

* Empowerment for Living meets for pot luck. 861-9149.

* PROTECT: an HIV negative support group meets at 7:00 pm. 520-7870.

* Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic at Club Body Houston. 8:00 pm. 520-2083.

* Women Survivors of Childhood Abuse at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 pm. 529-0037.

* Survivors of Loss support group meets at 8:30 pm. 778-2677.

* FrontRunners meet at 6:30 pm. 522-8021.

* Live Jazz at Borders Book Shop. 782-6066.

* "Sex or No Sex" workshop at 6:30 pm by AVES. 626-2837.

Wednesday, Nov. 27

* Free HIV testing and counseling by the Montrose Clinic at Mary's. 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

* Houston Tennis Club meets at 10:30 pm. 537-1348.

* Houston Pride Band practices at Dignity Houston. 524-0218.

* GLOBAL meets at 4:00 pm. 743-7539.

* Women's Action Coalition meets at Toopees at 7:00 pm. 867-9581.

* Men's Network at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 pm. 529-0037.

* Houston Tennis Club meets at 7:15 pm. 537-1348.

* Lambda Rollerskating Club skate at 8:00 pm. 933-5818.

* Women's Network at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 pm. 529-0037.

* Ongoing Mixed Living in Process Group for men and women. 622-7250 for more info.

* Living with Chronic Pain at Montrose Counseling Center. 9:30 pm. 529-0037.

* Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 pm. 529-0037.

* Women's Issues Process Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 pm. 529-0037.

* HIV Survivor Support Group meets at 7:00 pm. 782-4050.

* Women's Clinic at the Montrose Clinic. 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Call 520-2000.

* AVES offers free HIV testing from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. at 4125 SW Freeway, Suite 1717.

* Lesbian/Bisexual Survivors at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 pm. 529-0037.

* The Spay/Neuter Assistance Program offers low cost services. 522-2337.

Thursday, Nov. 28

* Free HIV testing and counseling by the Montrose Clinic at the Venture-N from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

* Art Labs at The Art League at 1:00 pm. 225-9411

* Front Runners meet at Memorial Park at 6:30 pm. 522-8021.

* Gay Men's Chorus of Houston open rehearsal at 7:00 pm. 521-7464.

* Twentysomething meets at 7:30 pm. 315-6786.

* KPFT Lesbian and Gay Voices airs from 8:00 pm. to 10:00 pm. 866-6505.

* Ongoing gay men's Living in Process Group. 622-7250.

* Open Mike Night at Cafe Artiste. 1601 W. Main. 8:00 pm. 528-3704.

* HIV+ Men Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 1:15 pm. 529-0037.

* Relapse Prevention at Montrose Counseling Center. 2:00 pm. 529-0037.

* Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 pm. 529-0037.

* Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 pm. 529-0037.

* Meditation and Chanting Group meets at 7:00 pm. 942-0923.

* HIV Affected at CASA. 7:00 pm. 796-2272.

* Men's Therapy Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 pm. 529-0037.

* HIV Survivor Support Group meets at 2929 Unity Drive. 7:00 pm. 782-4050

* Center for the Healing of Racism. 7:30 pm. 738-RACE.

* Gay Men's Chorus of Houston meets at 7:00 pm. 521-SING.

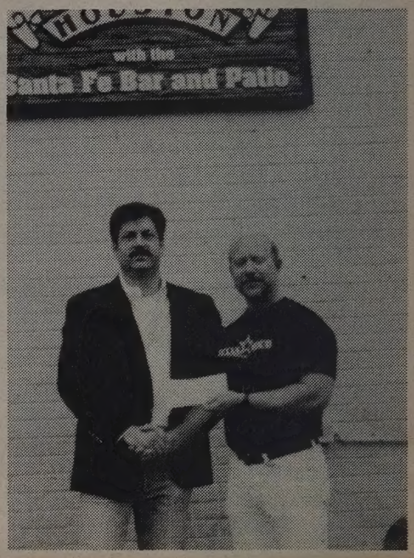
* Free HIV Testing and Counseling by the Montrose Clinic at Rich's. 10:00 pm to 2:00 am.

* The Center for AIDS forum meets. 527-8219.

* The Spay/Neuter Assistance Program offers low cost services. 522-2337.

* Free HIV testing and counseling by the Montrose Clinic at Rich's. 10:00 pm to 2:00 am.

Be Safe!


with the
Santa Fe Bar and Patio

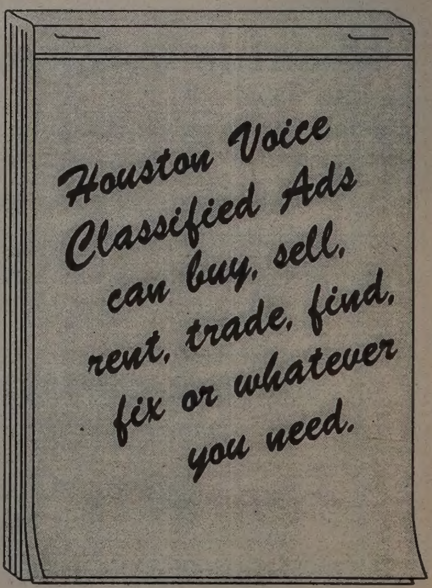
Charles Armstrong (left) presents a check to a Q-Patrol Representative

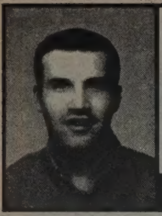
And Thanks To Q-Patrol

By SCOTT LEWIS

As we approach the holiday season the staff and management of your family of clubs at 800 Pacific and Charles Armstrong Investments, Inc., would like to remind each of you to please pay extra attention to your personal safety during this hectic time. Charles Armstrong Investments Inc., Heaven, J.R.'s Bar and Grill, The Santa Fe Bar and Patio and the Montrose Mining Company are proud to offer in memory of Paul Broussard and Michael Burzinski, a $1,000 contribution to the Q-Patrol.

We take this opportunity to honor the memory of Paul Broussard and Michael Burzinski who were murdered by young men who came into our community of Montrose targeting their crimes at Lesbians and Gay men. We also say Thank You to the men and women of Q-Patrol who walk our streets in an attempt to make Montrose a safer place to live or visit. Contact: Scott Lewis, Promotions Director, Charles Armstrong Investments Inc. (713) 521-0107.





PAST/OUT

BY DAVID BIANCO

Mishima of Japan—Gay Novelist

Nov. 25, 1970 (26 years ago this month): Openly gay Japanese novelist. Yukio Mishima commits ritual suicide with his lover at a Japanese military headquarters.

Yukio Mishima was one of Japan's most popular 20th century novelists, whose writings include some of the first modern Japanese explorations of gay identity and gay subculture. His disturbing suicide in 1970 drew attention to his unusual philosophy, which combined right-wing nationalism with the veneration of the male body and a fascination with violence.

Mishima was intensely proud to have descended from samurai warriors, and he aimed to make his life follow that of the ideal Japanese warrior, with a finely honed sense of both the martial and the fine arts. Although he generally looked down upon anything non-Japanese, even as a student he was a fan of the essays of the previous century's gay literary savant, British writer Oscar Wilde.

Perhaps his most famous—and certainly his most personal—novel was *Confessions of a Mask* . Published in 1949, it told of a boy's growing awareness of both his homosexuality and his fascination with sadomasochism. The protagonist's inability to make himself aroused by his girlfriend puzzled many postwar Japanese readers, some of whom considered the book to be an attempt at parody. Few recognized (until years later) its autobiographical nature—Japan's first "coming out novel."

Two years later, Mishima published *Forbidden Colors* , a second novel with gay themes. This one, however, had a broader setting, introducing its readers to the diverse gay subculture in 1950s Tokyo, with its bars, cruising spots, and gay parties. One of the main characters is a gay man who uses a younger man to wreak vengeance on women who wronged him in the past.

During the 1960s, Mishima continued to write, and to develop the philosophy that ultimately led to his violent death. He believed that the emperor was central to Japanese society, and indeed that no two people could love each other without first loving the emperor. He also believed that to live with honor meant to be prepared for war, to be unafraid of violence, and to be intensely loyal to one's colleagues.

Sometimes, these beliefs had bizarre manifestations. In 1967, Mishima led a ceremony for about a dozen university students in which all of them drew blood from their little fingers and poured it into a cup. They then used the blood as ink to sign their names to a pact. The ceremony finished with Mishima adding salt to the cup and drinking from the blood, after which each of the other students followed suit.

In his writing, Mishima frequently praised the Japanese samurai who ended their own lives by performing seppuku (also known as hara-kiri), a ritual form of suicide in which the warrior takes a short knife and disembowels himself, after which a fellow warrior cuts of his head. It became clear to many who read his works (which by the late 1960s were among the most celebrated of any Japanese writings) that Mishima hoped to end his own life someday in such a fashion. Seppuku was clearly erotic for Mishima, who once called it (just months before his death) "the ultimate masturbation."

However, Mishima felt that ritual suicide was not honorable unless one's body was in peak physical condition. Though he was skinny as a young man, he started a strict regimen of bodybuilding at age 30, which he continued through his death at age 45, by which time he was extremely muscled. With such a body, Mishima posed for many erotic photographs and even acted in a Japanese gangster film.

But Mishima is probably best remembered for the last day of his life. On Nov. 25, 1970, along with some of his right-wing nationalist followers, he stormed a Japanese military headquarters (the army was then called the "Japan Self-Defense Force") and demanded to speak to the troops outside. When they assembled, he exhorted them to rise up and overthrow Japan's postwar pacifist regime and replace it with a government that once again emphasized military might. When the troops laughed at and heckled Mishima he returned to an office inside, where he shouted his undying loyalty to the emperor and proceeded to cut open his abdomen with his sword. His protege (widely believed to be his lover), Masakatsu Morita, then cut off Mishima's head and committed seppuku himself.

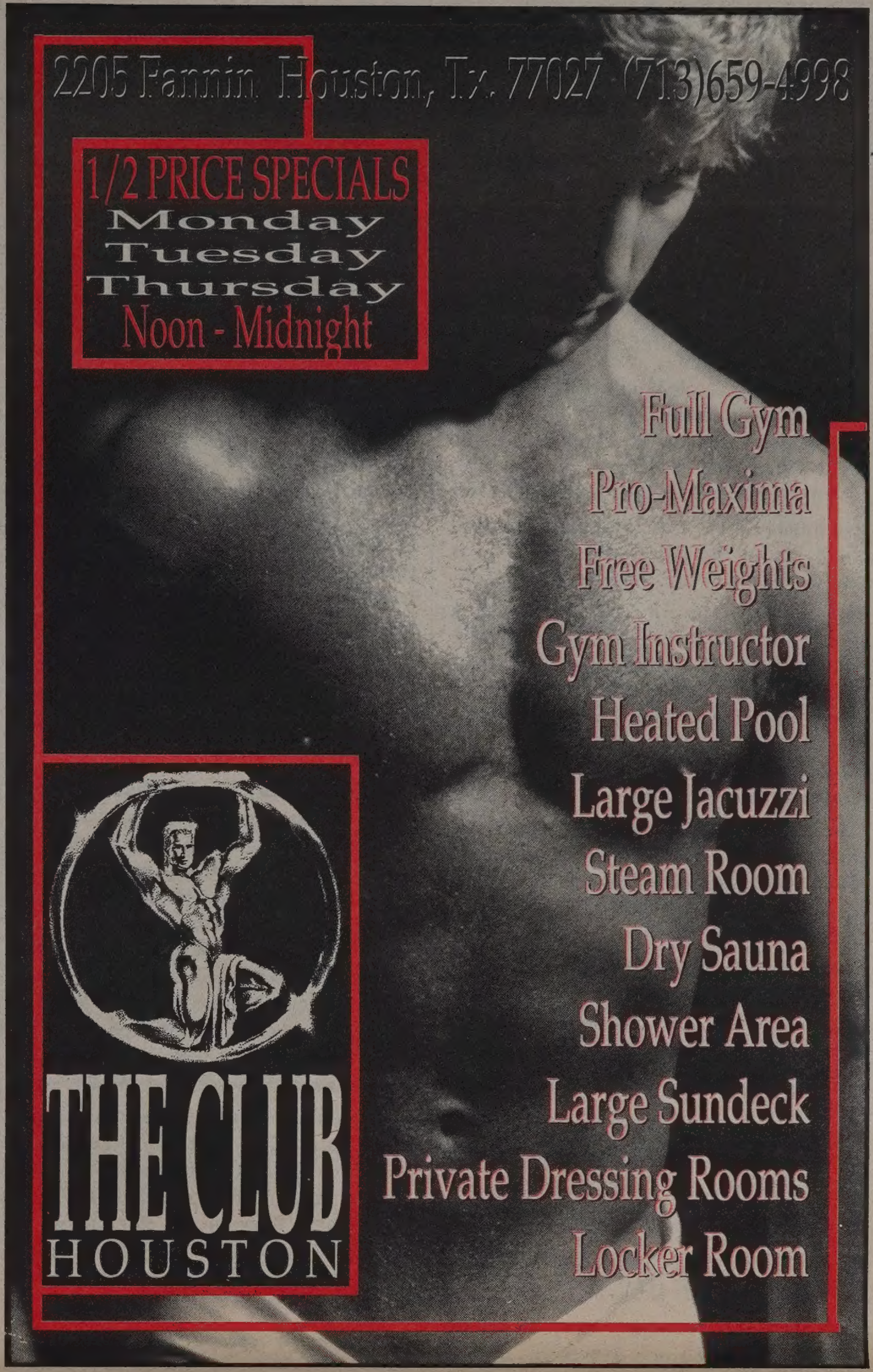
David Bianco, M.A., teaches gay and lesbian history at the Institute of Gay and Lesbian Education in West Hollywood. The author of Modern Jewish History for Everyone, he can be reached care of this publication or through his E-mail address: AriBianco@aol.com.

Woman Loses HIV Negligence Suit

VICTORIA, British Columbia (AP) A Victoria woman who contracted the AIDS virus through unsuccessful artificial insemination has lost her civil suit against the Vancouver doctor who performed the procedure. Kobe ter Neuzen now fears she could lose the home she bought with an interim payment from the doctor's insurance company. It was the second time she had sued Dr. Gerald Korn of Vancouver for negligence. "I don't think this is so-called justice, but that's what the system does," ter Neuzen said after the verdict. "I'm entirely disappointed. It's not right, but that's how the system works."

A British Columbia Supreme Court jury decided Thursday that so little was known about AIDS in early 1985 that Korn was not negligent. Ter Neuzen underwent artificial insemination by Korn from 1981 through 1985. During her last treatment, in Jan. 1985, she received sperm from a donor who had HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. Ter Neuzen, 51, tested positive for HIV in Nov. 1985 but has not yet developed AIDS. She originally won $883,800 when she sued Korn in 1991, accusing him of using insufficient methods for screening his sperm donors. Korn appealed, but in the interim, his insurance company was ordered to give ter Neuzen $200,000 as an advance against a successful claim at the retrial.

She used the money to buy a home she says is a key in dealing with being HIV positive. "It's the healing environment for me that supports my thinking about this particular virus, the house and the garden, the serenity," she said. The B.C. Court of Appeal overturned the 1991 award, saying the B.C. Supreme Court jury's reasons for finding negligence were not clear. A new trial was ordered. The Supreme Court of Canada upheld the appeal ruling, rejecting ter Neuzen's argument that Korn should have known in Jan. 1985 about the risk of transmitting HIV through artificial insemination. Because the jury at the retrial ruled there was no negligence, the insurance company could ask ter Neuzen to repay the advance. There was no word from the insurance company Thursday. Ter Neuzen's lawyer, Sandra Harper, said an appeal is being considered.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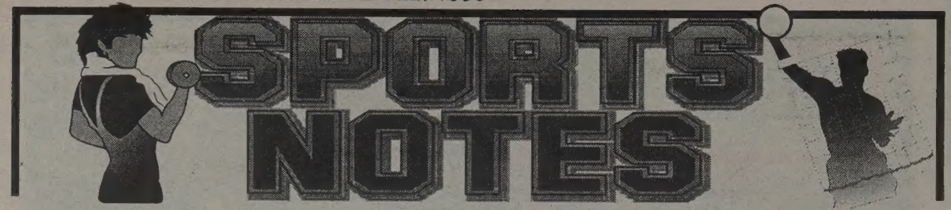


SPORTS NOTES

Rainbow Fish

The **Rainbow Fishing Club's** first party will be held at the 611 Hyde Park Pub on Friday, Nov. 22 from 7-9pm. Everyone is invited. On Sunday, Nov. 24, weather permitting, the club will go fishing out of Galveston on the 70-foot deluxe deep sea cruiser, Texsun II. The cost for the twelve-hour trip is $60 per person. Call John at 523-6381 for reservations.

On Sunday, Dec. 1 at 2pm, there will be a Fish Fry at the 611 Club. Everyone is welcome to come sample the catch.

Being planned for 1997 are a camping & fishing trip to Huntsville State Park & Raven Lake (Crappie, Bass, Catfish, Sunfish), a fishing trip for Rainbow Trout on the Guadalupe River and a Matagorda Bay trip for Redfish & Speckled Trout, plus numerous deep sea trips out of Galveston & Freeport.

The club is adopting the "Loving Arms Foundation" as the club's charity. Fund raisers will be planned in the future.

Turkey Skate

The **Lambda Rollerskating Club** will be skating on Wednesday, Nov. 27 from 8-10pm at Starlite Skating Academy, 8075 Cook Rd. Admission is $5 plus $1.50 if you need skates. Inline skates are welcome.

If your club or organization would like to hold a skate event, please call 787-0625 or e-mail lrsc@neosoft.com, or visit their web page at http://www.neosoft.com/lrsc/

Women's Flag Football

The **Houston Women's Flag Football League** (HWFFL) is a non-profit organization dedicated to creating opportunities for women to play football. They are still looking for players, coaches, referees, cheerleaders and league/team sponsors. Play began on Oct. 5 and continues through Feb. 1st, 1997. Four games are played on Saturdays from 9am until 1pm at Wilson Elementary School, located on Fairview, between Mandell and Yupon. On Sundays at 4pm, the league shows the videotapes of the games at Ms. B's, located on Buffalo Speedway. For info call Tonya Medrano at 315-9368.

Bowling Stats

The **Montrose Monday Night Men's League** reports Division I Standings in 1st, 2nd and 3rd places are Beat the Meat Again, Dog Tired, and Pinheads. In Division II, Thirsty Wives Club, Spank My Feet and Pearlized Sisters occupy the top spots. High Scratch game of 266 and High Handicapped game was bowled by Ralph Sikes. High Scratch Series of 705 and high handicapped series was bowled by Tom O'Dell. Bowling is at Palace Lanes at 9pm on Monday. Call Tom at 522-9612.

The **Inner Loop Sunday Evening League** reports Please Don't Eat the Daisy in 1st, We Go There Too in 2nd and The Four Tops in 3rd. High Scratch Game of 240 handicapped game was bowled by Allen Barrett for the men. High Scratch series of 632 and Handicapped Series was bowled by David Furlong. For the women Dian Thomason bowled High Scratch Game of 215 and series of 577. Margaret Dennison bowled High Handicapped Game and Gayle Newcomb series. Call Tom at 522-9612. Bowling is at Palace Lanes at 7pm on Sunday.

The **Wednesday Night Mixers** reports Gutter Bumper in 1st with Party Line and We Come When You Call in 2nd and 3rd. For the men High Scratch game of 235 and series of 644 by Tom O'Dell. Allen Barrett bowled High Handicapped Game. For the women, Nancy Wintle bowled High Scratch Game of 187 and High Handicapped Game. Lynn Kelley bowled High Scratch Series and Handicapped Series. Call Tom at 522-9612. Bowling is at AMF Southway at 6:30pm on Wednesday.

The **Monday Night Women's League** bowls at 6:15pm at AMF Southway on Mondays. Balls R Out is in 1st with Bitches in Beautiful Shirts in 2nd, TAZ Club in 3rd and M Power in 4th. For info call Pat 437-6218.

Ranglers Dance

The **Rainbow Ranglers Dance Club** , a 501(c)(3) charity, is pleased to announce the Rangler Holiday Show will take place on Sunday, Dec. 22 at 8pm at the Brazos River Bottom. A fund raiser for Steven's House, the show will feature the award-winning Rainbow Ranglers Dance Team and many special guests. Anyone wishing to be a financial underwriter for this event may contact Rainbow Ranglers at 880-0670.

HMBL Standings

The **Houston Metropolitan Billiards League, Inc.** (HMBL) reports the top five teams for Week 5. They are Ripcord Maniacs, Oui Cousins, Jackson 5, J.R.'s Cue Crew and Crazy 8's.

The top five players for the week are Larry Lentz, John Bowen, Chuck Willman, Kenneth Keener & Ken Bailey. For info call 299-8969.

GALAXY GAYZER

A HOUSTON VOICE EXCLUSIVE

HOROSCOPE FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 22 - 28, 1996

IF THIS WEEK IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: You usually prefer to follow the logical path rather than trusting your intuition. However, your intuition can enhance your accuracy about situations when you team it with reason. Whether you admit it or not, you have experienced intense psychic moments, which may make you a bit uneasy.

ARIES (March 21-April 20) It's a great week to improve relationships, particularly within the family. This may be the opportune time to reach out to someone who looks up to you, possibly a child. Be alert to all money opportunities, postponing any major decisions for now.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 21) You are looking and feeling your best, so use this positive energy to your advantage - get out and accomplish things. Communications with others go well - you are a mind-reader with all around you. Tensions elsewhere may find you taking it out on a loved one.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21) Make it a point of getting chores and errands out of the way earlier, because it looks like rest, relaxation and partying is in store for later. Be aware of the helpful insights surrounding you, rapid advancement at work may be a result of heeding suggestions.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23) Personal financial planning is favored. Your intuition is sharpened concerning money matters. You may run into an intense blow-out with a mate or lover - keep your cool, things will straighten out rather quickly. Spend some time by yourself.

LEO (July 24- August 23) It will be a busy week for you. Hard work on your part will bring you closer to your career and personal goals. Be supportive of family members, someone is going through a tough time. Resolve financial concerns you have now, before things get out of hand.

VIRGO (August 24 - September 23) You are eager to help out wherever needed, but avoid those who manipulate your actions. Be sure that your efforts go to a good cause. Enjoy a break from the routine for a couple days. Luck will find you with extra dollars you weren't expecting at all.

LIBRA (September 24 - October 23) You are ready to conquer any obstacles this week. It may not be a bad idea to spend some time alone, because your criticisms of others may get you in deep water. It's hard to concentrate, and daydreaming won't hurt - unconscious messages have practical value.

SCORPIO (October 24 - November 22) This week finds you in tune with your lover or mate, which makes for great fun and accomplishments for the next several days. It looks quite favorable for you to move closer to your goals. If people at work don't argue with you, they will argue around you- keep a low profile.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23 - December 21) You need to get away from your hectic routine to be alone with your thoughts. Be confident of success in business dealings. Avoid any unpleasant financial surprises by going over matters to clear up any discrepancies. You can reach a meeting of minds with opponents.

CAPRICORN (December 22 - January 20) A friend challenges you to break out of your shell and promote yourself for advancement. Maybe it's time - trust yourself and you'll be happier in the long run. A great career opportunity presents itself, and you'll move ahead without upsetting anyone.

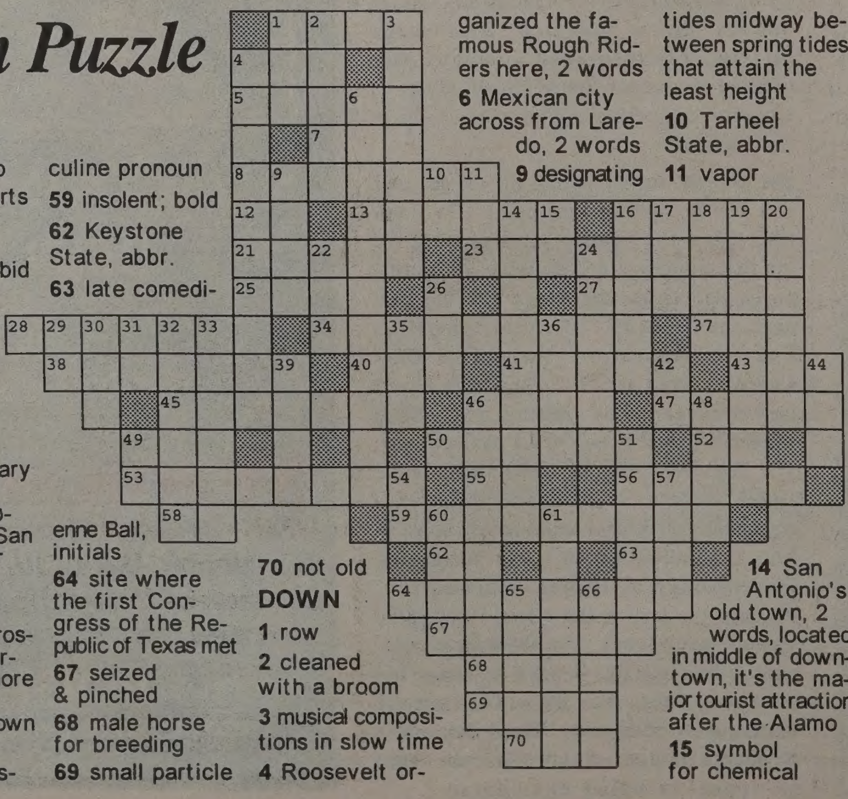
AQUARIUS (January 21 - February 19) It's hard to avoid confrontations. Someone you have recently befriended may turn on you. It'll be better to remain silent than be drawn into unnecessary arguments. Travel is favored for the next several weeks. If involved in litigation, expect to win.

PISCES (February 20 - March 20) Career advancement seems effortless, so pursue your most cherished goal. Co-workers will welcome your great ideas. It may be a good idea to spend a little bit of time on your own, getting back in touch with yourself. Resolve differences that are putting distance between you and a loved one.

The Great American Puzzle

TEXAS EDITION

By Henry McClurg



ACROSS

1 Occupational Safety & Health Administration

4 beheld or espied

5 scene

7 small dog with snub nose

8 putting up an ante

12 direction Texas to Indiana, abbr.

13 popular pieces of music for a singer

16 fortune-telling playing card

21 edible roots of a tropical plant

23 Texas 1st colonial capital had 200th birthday salute to Stephen F. Austin in 1993, 2 words

25 gem with delicate colors

27 deer horn

28 Texas county with Morton as seat; sounds like 'cock ran'

34 city Houston Oilers are working on moving to

37 before

38 W. Africa country with Monrovia as capital

40 the edge

41 continues

43 time zone of 99 percent of Alas. not during daylight savings, abbr.

45 used to coax pigs to run at Houston Rodeo

46 major seaports in Texas, most in the nation

47 shut out; forbid

49 former French coin

50 Tchaikovsky, Ustinov & Graves

52 Spanish for 'the'

53 U.S. Secretary of Housing & Urban Development, former San Antonio mayor

55 Beehive State, abbr.

56 famous for roses, area nurseries propagate more than half the nation's field-grown rose bushes

58 French masculine pronoun

59 insolent; bold

62 Keystone State, abbr.

63 late comedienne Ball, initials

64 site where the first Congress of the Republic of Texas met

67 seized & pinched

68 male horse for breeding

69 small particle

70 not old

DOWN

1 row

2 cleaned with a broom

3 musical compositions in slow time

4 Roosevelt organized the famous Rough Riders here, 2 words

6 Mexican city across from Laredo, 2 words

9 designating tides midway between spring tides that attain the least height

10 Tarheel State, abbr.

11 vapor

14 San Antonio's old town, 2 words, located in middle of downtown, it's the major tourist attraction after the Alamo

15 symbol for chemical element tin

16 principle of belief

17 computer keyboard key next to the space bar

18 anger

19 usable; suitable for surgery

20 Mother ?????? awarded honorary American citizenship Nov. 16, 1996

22 dashed

24 more false

26 unit of electrical resistance

29 a version of 'ole'

30 organized labor group that merged with A.F.L. in 1955

31 entertainers Belafonte or Bogart, initials

32 spring back

33 awaken from sleep

35 female kin

36 wash

39 African tropical tree

42 Coyote State, abbr.

44 put to a test

46 medieval political order

48 snakelike fishes

49 Palmetto State, abbr.

51 having little emotion

54 initials of Texas city that is home of the Alamo

57 city in north central Calif.

60 on

61 calculate

65 Texas county with Rankin as seat; sounds like 'up ton'

66 to wet with dew

Solution elsewhere this issue

c.1996 GULF FEATURES, PUZZLE TX206

TheaterLab Houston Presents a Well Performed 'john & jen'

By RICH ARENSCHIELDT

TheaterLab Houston, purveyor of small but spicy theatrical performances from off the beaten track has provided us with a slightly more traditional offering, john & jen. This musical by playwright Andrew Lippa premiered in 1995 and was originally produced at the Goodspell Opera House. It offers us an interesting 'generational retrospective' of the lives of a brother sister duo during the 1960's.

Given its intimate setting, TheaterLab has always been 'spatially challenged' with regard to the size and scope of works it presents. It has, for the most part, surmounted these obstacles and at the same time produced good quality regional theater. The recent presentation of Brad Frazier's 'Poor Superman' was one of the latest triumphs in the 'art over space' dilemma.

john (Paul Nicely) & jen (Elizabeth Byrd).

john & jen faces a slightly more quixotic challenge. The work itself is perfect for the physical plant of this 'way off Wortham Center venue' but needs emotional room for its own textual substance to move around in. Fortunately the team of Paul Nicely (john) and Elizabeth Byrd (jen) give the play that added space and impact.

Central to john & jen is the nature of the relationship maturation process shared amongst siblings and, to a lesser degree, parents. This is explored musically (and there is a lot of music) in numerous ways. As the two characters youthfully discover themselves (and each other) we are embraced by clever libretto and tune; first from the sweet introductory lullaby moving to a humorous 'ode to adolescent sibling loathing' and then, finally, on to the more serious and mature relational representations.

The two actor/musicians involved are the strongest draw of the evening. Both possess strong, clear and expressive voices that handle everything form childlike innocence to adult rage with confidence. Their ensemble works well and they compliment each other vocally across the musical and dramatic range of the play. There is extensive singing in john & jen and they offer it to us convincingly. Dramatically, director Jimmy Phillips has done a good job at keeping the audience interested in the stage action, and in so doing, has kept the actors hopping. The machinations of the two 'youngsters' made me smirk at their realness. Particularly goofy are the spastic superhero-like antics of the little brother john paired with the false maternalness of his older sister.

john & jen turns serious however, as the characters grow up and the issues they confront become more complex. Some of these issues are hinted at and then more fully explored as the show progresses. The two siblings continue to seek parental approval (even though the parents, much like the central character in HortonFoote's The Young Man From Atlanta, never materialize) and much of their energy is focused on obtaining it. There is also an extensive and witty political commentary as brother and sister take opposing viewpoints on the Vietnam war and other issues specific to the 1960's and early 1970's.

Paul Nicely and Elizabeth Byrd as john and jen offer us an interesting glimpse of sibling/parental life at a time in history when authority was in direct juxtaposition with personal freedom. Their portrayals serve to focus the movement and message of john & jen.

john & jen runs weekends through Dec. 22nd. For tickets please call (713) 868-7516.

Theater LaB Houston & Bunnies on the Bayou cosponsor Benefit

Day Without Art

Theater LaB Houston and Bunnies on the Bayou will cosponsor a special benefit performance of short plays on Sunday, Dec. 1st at 6pm and Monday Dec. 2nd at 8pm with proceeds from the performances benefiting THE NAMES PROJECT HOUSTON.

Sunday, Dec. 1, 1996, Day Without Art is the 8th International Day of Action and Mourning in Response to the AIDS Crisis. Organized by Visual AIDS and thousands of other cultural institutions, Day Without Art's goal is to increase AIDS awareness and education, mourn the community's losses, acknowledge AIDS caregivers and activists and initiate action to care for people living with AIDS.

Under its banner NEW VISIONS/NEW WORKS, which spotlights Houston playwrights, Theater LaB Houston presents Houston playwrights' response to the AIDS epidemic in four 10 minute playlets. This is the fourth annual Day Without Art event in which Theater LaB Houston has commissioned Houston playwrights. Theater LaB Houston is the only Houston theater company to annually produce an entire program in observance of Day Without Art. This year's event includes TIME by Sam Havens. Park Bench by Gary Laird. Ed Muths' Wrong Way and May I Have This Dance? written by Dana S. Colson. In addition, this years program will include a special workshop production of a new musical—The Weekend When Pon Met Perry, book and lyrics by Gerald Blaise LaBita and music by Mary Carol Warwick.

Proceeds from this evening will go to the NAMES PROJECT HOUSTON which is dedicated to using the AIDS Memorial Quilt to help bring an end to the AIDS epidemic, by providing a creative means for remembrance and healing. The Quilt is used to increase public awareness of AIDS and assist with HIV prevention education and to illustrate the enormity of the AIDS epidemic. Bunnies on the Bayou, Inc. is a volunteer Texas non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization established to support local charitable, educational, cultural and scientific purposes with particular emphasis on AIDS service and support organizations.

Proceeds from the evening will go to THE NAMES PROJECT HOUSTON, tickets are $15, and are available by calling 868-7516. Theater LaB Houston is located at 1706 Alamo, off the 21 00 block of Houston Ave. Secure parking is provided, and the theater is handicap accessible.

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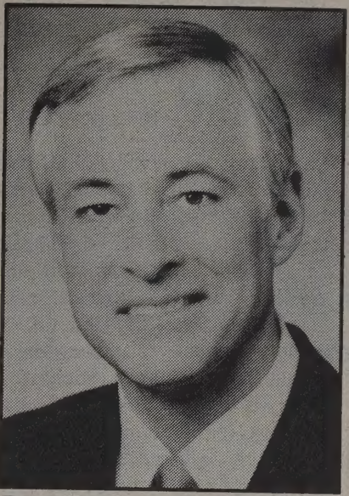
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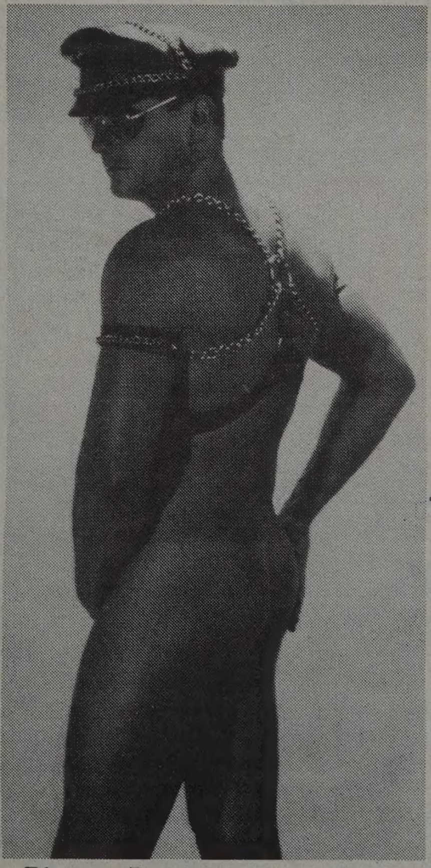
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Britt Says a Four-Letter Word

In the Nov. 1 edition of the Washington Post, columnist Donna Britt described coming to terms with her own homophobia and the realization that when straight people call gay people "them," it is the same as white people calling black people "them" to distance themselves from the basic humanity of others. The column details the discomfort that she and those around her felt upon seeing the Melissa Etheridge/Julie Cypher "Having A Baby" Newsweek cover, and how many people simply shrug and say, "I just don't understand them." Britt notes, "As a black woman, I know about 'them.' The ultimate four-letter word, 'them' has unrivaled, unrecognized power to separate. It's the them thing, the easy thing, the thing that makes us feel wary of, or superior to, faceless folks whom we don't know." She continues, "Just as many whites know better than to confess their ongoing struggle with racist feelings, few people publicly discuss their sense of gays as 'them.' Instead, we feign enlightenment, make whispered jokes, or say nothing." She then describes several lesbian and gay people she has known, loved and respected in her life, and how, when it comes to a personal friend, the feeling of "them" doesn't exist. Britt sums up by saying, "Whoever they are, they're a lot like us, doing what they must for love in an us-against-them world."

Please commend the Washington Post for a heartfelt, honest and thoughtful discussion of how personal feelings of discomfort can translate into societal discrimination. Contact: Leonard Downie, Editor-In-Chief, The washington Post, 1150 15th St. NW, Washington, DC, 20071, e-mail: webnews@washpost.com.

Sparks Fly: Education 1, Stereotypes 0

Last week the new UPN (Universal Paramount Network) sitcom Sparks, starring James Avery and Robin Givens, took a comical swipe at all brands of stereotypes. On its Nov. 11 episode entitled "Good for the Gander," African-American attorney Maxey Sparks (Miguel A. Nunez, Jr.) crudely attempts to turn-on the openly gay judge, Judge Parker (Richard Bradford), when his defense of a hip-hop artist starts to go awry. He unbuttons his shirt, sprays on too much cologne, swaggers around the court, winks at the judge and uses an effeminate lisp to address the entire court. This, and the announcement that the judge wants to see him alone in his chambers, is met with delight and laughter by the audience.

In chambers, attempting to make the point that the defendant could not be recognized in a stocking mask, the judge hands Sparks stockings. Sparks, misunderstanding, horrifyingly begins to put them on his feet. When the judge questions why he is putting the stockings there, Sparks screams, "I don't know how you like it!" The judge then turns the tables on not only Sparks but the audience, when he tells him that as an African-American he should know how hurtful and wrong stereotypes are. He asks how it feels when Sparks sees an old movie that portrays blacks as lazy and stupid, and then proclaims to Sparks, "that's how I feel when you prance in my courtroom." The stunned audience's silence turns to boisterous applause as Sparks apologizes.

Please thank UPN and Sparks for reminding its audience that all stereotypes are degrading. Contact: Lucie Salhany, President-CEO, UPN, 11800 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90025, fax: 310.575.7201.

Coming Out in the Wall Street Journal

In Hal Lancaster's "Managing Your Career" column in the Nov. 5 Wall Street Journal, he looked into the question, "Should Managers Tell Colleagues That They Are Gay?" It examines several issues, including possible discrimination and harassment by others, the discomfort and inconvenience of being in the closet and the appropriateness of the venue for coming out. Additionally, the article gives strategies for how to determine whether or not coming out is the right decision for a person, and, if so, some tips for how to do it. "Map out a plan. Use role-playing to practice the conversation with friends," Lancaster writes after speaking with Sharon Silverstein, author of Straight Jobs, Gay Life. "Also, have some realistic career options in mind, just in case." Lancaster adds to "keep in mind that the longer you work somewhere, the more likely it is people will know or strongly suspect, anyway," and ends by noting that the corporate environment is becoming increasingly gay-friendly.

Let the Wall Street Journal know that articles like this one are incredibly helpful not just to closeted lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender workers, but also the people with whom they work. Contact: The wall Street Journal, 200 Liberty Street, New York, NY 10281, fax: 212.416.2658, e-mail: editor@cor.dowjones.com.

Kansas City News Views Gay Marriage

On Nov. 11, WDAF-TV, the Kansas City, Missouri Fox affiliate, ran an overwhelmingly positive and balanced story on the 9 p.m. news about three same-sex couples who hope that one day they will be able to legally marry and adopt children. On the whole, the coverage was both positive and sensitive, including comments not only by the couples but also by Unitarian minister Duke Tufty, who supports the sanction of any committed relationship, regardless of the genders of the couple involved. One couple included GLAAD member Randy Hate and his partner Rick Fisher. The daughter of one lesbian commented that she didn't understand how anyone could think that her child spending time with her lesbian grandmother could be wrong. Additionally, television cameras followed a gay male couple as they walked their dog, facing homophobic slurs from passersby. Finally, a telephone survey conducted by WDAF found that, despite national polls to the contrary, a whopping 58 percent felt that same—sex marriage should be legally recognized.

The only flaw with an otherwise well-executed story was the obligatory interview with an antigay religious radical, Kansas State Representative Kay O'Connor (R-Olathe), who said, "It's very unnatural and very unholy and I don't want to do anything to encourage it!"

Inform WDAF that they did a great job with the story, but explain to them that it is inappropriate to include an antigay perspective for so-called 'balance.' Contact: Mike McDonald, News Director, WDAF-TV, 3030 Summit Street, Kansas City, MO 64108, fax: 816.531.4444, e-mail: wdaftv4@wdaftv4.com.

Turning Point Does Gay Marriage A Good Turn

On Nov. 7, ABC's Turning Point looked at the issue of same-sex marriage by featuring four gay and lesbian couples and their families leading up to and following their marriage ceremonies. The show, by focusing on the love and emotions involved, put gay marriage into an appropriate context without clouding the issue with anti-gay hate-mongering. One ceremony was Jewish, one Episcopalian, and the other two were non-denominational, and the show explored a controversy among the Episcopalian diocese that arose when ABC wanted to film the ceremony within the church. While most family members were supportive, several struggled to adjust to the idea of same-sex marriage. In the end, however, they embraced their gay and lesbian loved ones and endorsed their weddings. Even the one fundamentalist Christian, who was completely opposed to her sister's marriage to another woman, and, for that matter, her sister being a lesbian, attended the reception and told her sister that she loved her. Most significantly, the program conveyed the love that the couples felt. It showed the all-important ceremonial kisses and emphasized that, whatever some people in society might feel, and whatever religious radical doomsayers might say, these unions are based upon love and commitment.

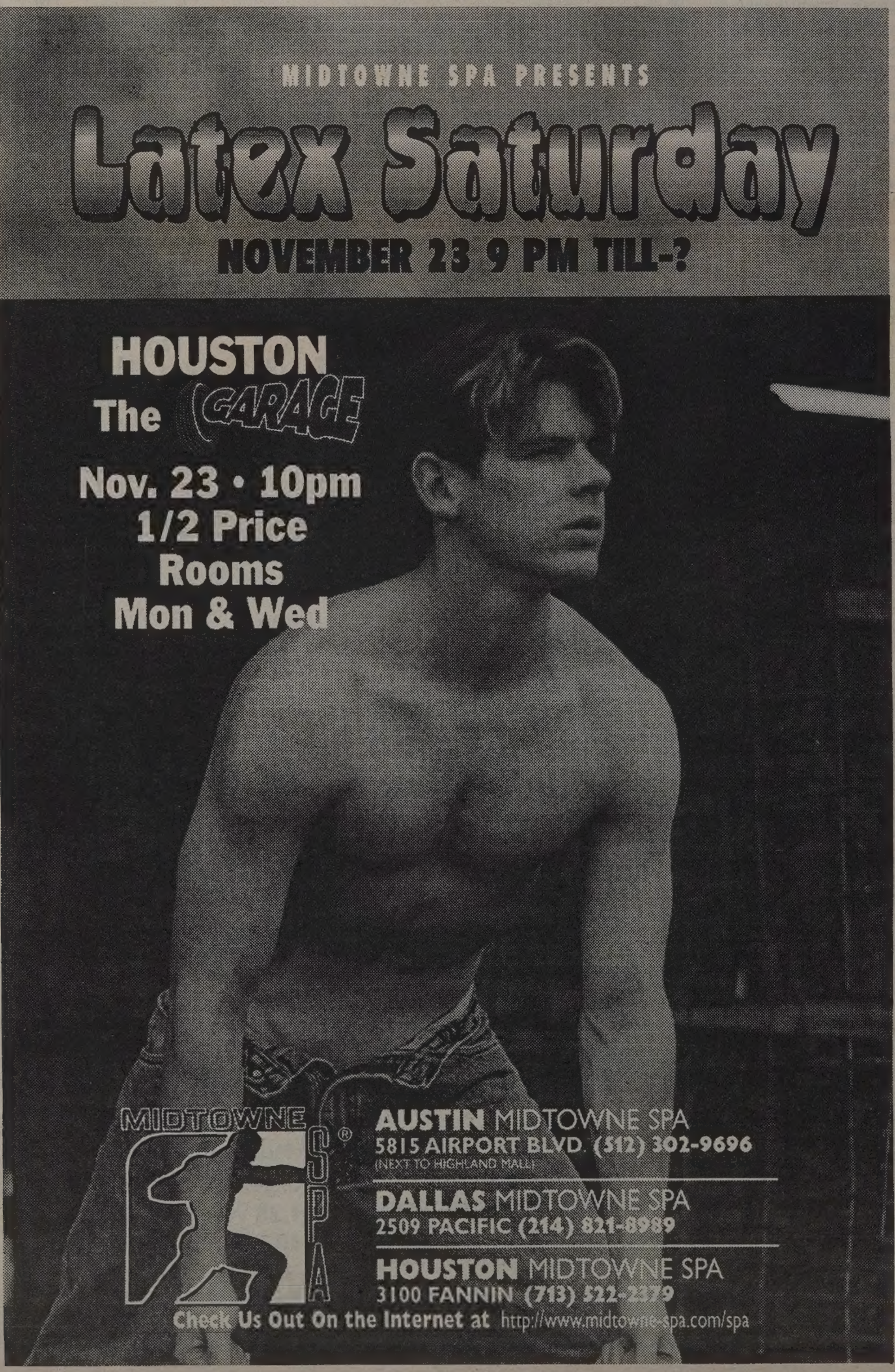
Congratulate Turning Point on finding an excellent angle to sensitively cover the misunderstood issue of same-sex marriage. Contact: Turning Point, ABC, 77 West 66th Street, New York, NY 10023, e-mail: abcaudr@ccabc.com.

"Gay Animal House?"

Boyfriends, a romantic comedy set in a gay fraternity house at a conservative Midwestern college, is currently in development at New Regency Productions' Regency Vision division and getting wide support from within the film industry. The executive producer of the film, Joel Schumacher, has produced such past hits as A Time to Kill, Batman Forever and The Lost Boys, and Warner Brothers has plans to distribute the film worldwide.

Please praise New Regency for developing a major lesbian—or gay-themed Hollywood film and urge them to follow suit with other films involving lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender characters. Contact: Alexandra Milchan and Elinor Milchan, Regency Vision, New Regency Productions, 4000 Warner Boulevard, Building 66, Burbank, CA 91522-0001, fax: 818.954.3295.

Contact GLAAD by e-mail at glaad@glaad.org or by phone at 213.658.6775 (Los Angeles), 212.807.1700 (New York), 413.586.8928 (Northampton), 202.986.1360 (Washington, DC) or 415.861.2244(San Francisco). Report defamation in the media by calling GLAAD's AlertLine! 1-800-GAY-MEDIA (1-800-429-6334)



Community Organizations Bulletin Board

The Supporting Cast

Theatre Southwest presents "The Supporting Cast" written by George Firth through Nov. 30. The play's title refers to the friends, relatives and lovers of famous people. The non-famous people are invited for a weekend to read advance copies of a book written about them. Friday & Saturday shows begin at 8pm. Theatre Southwest is located at 3750 S. Gessner @ Westpark. For reservations call 661-9505. Tickets are $10 and $9 for seniors & students.

Simple Gifts

The Gay Men's Chorus of Houston will present its holiday concert, "Simple Gifts" Dec. 14 & 15. GMCH members Rex Gillit & John Hall are conducting the concert, with piano accompaniment by Neal Massey and a guest appearance by Marsha Carlton. Nancy Busch will provide sign-language interpretation at the performance.

The concert will begin at 7pm Saturday, Dec. 14, and at 2:30 pm Sunday, Dec. 15 at the First Unitarian Universalist Church, 5200 Fannin. For $10 tickets call 713-521-SING or stop by Crossroads Market, Inklings Book Shop, or LOBO Book Shop.

Turkey Dinner

The **Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection** (MCCR) will hold their annual Thanksgiving service & dinner on Nov. 28. The worship service will begin at 11am. The dinner will follow at 12 Noon. No expense or culinary talents will be spared for the preparation of the meal. All are welcome to both the service and the dinner to follow regardless of their background. Located at 1919 Decatur one block off of Washington & White, call 861-9149, or on the Internet at http://www.neosoft.com/mccr/mccr.htlml.

Different Kind of Cat

Through Saturday, Dec. 7, the **Actor's Workshop** presents "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof." The cast features Cheray Martin as Maggie the Cat, Hosea Simmons as Brick, Tanya Lunstroth as Bib Mama, and C.F. Jarmon from New York's Billie Holiday Theatre in the role of Big Daddy. The play is directed by Manning Mpinduzi-Mott. This steamy classic becomes explosive when fueled by an interracial marriage in segregated times. Show times are 8pm Fridays & Saturdays, 3pm Sundays. For reservations & ticket prices call 236-1844.

Miracle On Main Street

In 1995, more than 75,000 people turned out to see the **Miracle on Main Street** with their own eyes! Houston's first outdoor ice-skating rink, surrounded by fantastic holiday lights, was the rage of the holiday season. Southwestern Bell and the Downtown District have already turned down the thermostat to accommodate more visitors than ever! Not only will the rink be bigger, but will start earlier and stay up longer!

Located in Downtown Houston at 1000 Main Street at Lamar, across from Foley's, skating will take place from Friday, Nov. 22 thru Sunday January, 5. They are Sunday thru Thursday Noon til 11pm; Fridays Noon til Midnight and Saturdays 10am til Midnight. Weekday skating is $5, weekend and holiday skating $6 and skate rental is $2. Plan to have a great time!

Discussion Group

The **Gay & Lesbian Readers Group** is seeking romantic spirits to share passionate conversation on "Patience & Sarah," based on the life of artist Mary Ann Wilson. Be at Barnes & Noble in Vanderbilt Square, 3003 W. Holcombe Blvd on Monday, Nov. 25 at 7pm. For info call Erik at 713-349-0050.

Art Show & Sale

Artwork created by local artists living with AIDS/HIV will be on display and for sale at **Bering United Methodist Church** on Friday, Dec. 6. Art displayed will include oils, acrylics, ceramic, photography, crafts, etc. Profits from sale of art will go directly to the artists struggling to survive and continue to contribute to society by utilizing their artistic talents. Please go by and enjoy the evening with them. Bering Church is at 1400 Harold. The event will be held in the Fellowship Hall.

Switchboard Training

The **Gay & Lesbian Switchboard** (GLSH) is conducting training for new phone staff volunteers from Dec. 6-8. The GLSH is staffed entirely by volunteers & is upon its 15th year of serving the community. A non-profit, information & referral service providing information on organizations, services, events and matters of interest to & about the gay & lesbian community in the Houston area, GLSH also provides info on AIDS, peer/active listening and when necessary crisis intervention. The hate crimes/hate incidents hotline is also maintained and operated by GLSH. To volunteer or for more info call 713-529-3211 or leave a message at 713-529-9615.

Holiday Artists

Archway Gallery located at 2013 West Gray invites all to ring in the Holidays with their 15 diverse artists on Saturday Nov. 23. Celebrating their 20-year anniversary, Archway's hours Monday-Wednesday are 10am-6pm; Thursday-Saturday 10am-8pm and Sunday 1-5pm. For info, call 713-522-2409.

How To Reach Members of Congress & The President

Call the Capitaol switchboard - even if you are not sure who represents you, just ask the operator and you will be connected. Ask for their fax numbers and e-mail addresses as well.
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Write:

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Washington. DC 20510

The Honorable ________________
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The President of the United States
President Bill Clinton
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Where To Go and What It Will Cost!

Friday, Nov. 22

* $1 well and $1.75 Miller. Doors open at 9:00 pm at Heaven.

* Drink specials until 9:00 pm; Buffet at 5:00 pm at Brazos River Bottom.

* Drag show at Cousin's at 11:00 pm.

* Shower dancers at Midtowne Spa.

* Steve plays for Happy Hour: Wayne Gray tickles the rest of the night! Blackjack tables open at 9:30 pm at the BriarPatch!

* Free hors d'oeuvres from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm; $1 Schnapps at Rascals.

* Bad Boys dance at 6:00 pm: $2 Kamikazes at Gentry.

* Power Hours with $1.75 domestic beer and well from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm; Happy Hour 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm with $2.25 domestic beer and $2.75 well cocktails; $2 Jose Cuervo! Birthday Blow-out and Drag Show by Jennifer Ellsworth, candidate for Empress XIII at 9:00 pm at Chances.

* $1.75 well drinks and longnecks from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm; $1.50 Vodka drinks from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm at Mary's.

* $3.75 premium vodkas; Happy hour until 10:00 pm: male dancers 8:00 pm to 2:30 am; After hours until 4:00 am at the Montrose Mining Company.

* Texas Pride Happy Hour 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm $2.25 well, $1.75 domestic longnecks, $3.50 Absolut Martinis and $4.50 doubles. $3.75 Skyy & Stoli: hard body male dancers at J.R.'s Video Bar.

* Boyz night out at Club Incognito.

* $1.75 well, beer, and wine at the Venture-N from noon until 9:00 pm. The Houston Area Bears guest bartends starting at 9:00 pm.

* Happy Hour until 10:00 pm at Berry Hill II.

* Happy Hours 7:00 am to 9:00 pm; $1.50 Well 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm; $1.50 vodka 7:00 am to 6:00 pm: Mug Club 7:00 am to 10:00 pm: Male Strip Contest at 11:00 pm at E/J's.

* Friday Foreplay at Pacific Street. $1.25 well; $1.75 beer; $3 call; $3.50 premium; $1.25 schnapps; Doors open at 7:00 pm. No cover until 9:00 pm.

* Pizza Buffet at 5:30 pm; dancers at 9:00 pm at the 611 Hyde Park Pub.

* Happy Hour 1:00 pm to 8:00 pm; After Hours until 4:00 am at the Ripcord.

* Happy Hour 11:00 am to 8:00 pm at the Outpost.

* 8-ball tournament at the Lazy J.

* Fizz Fridays! 18+ welcome; $1 well,$2 beer, $3 call; Doors open at 9:00 pm at Rich's.

Saturday, Nov. 23

* Leather and Flesh night at Pacific Street; Doors open at 9:00 pm.

* Happy Hour 11:00 am to 8:00 pm at the Outpost.

* Drink specials until 9:00 pm at the Brazos River Bottom.

* Drag show at Cousin's at 11:00 pm.

* $1 well 9:00 pm to 11:00 pm;$1.50 domestic longnecks 10:30 pm to 11:00 pm; $1.25 schnapps; Doors open at 9:00 pm at Heaven.

* Wayne Gray tickles the ivories tonight at the BriarPatch.

* Bad Boys dance at 9:00 pm; $3.50 Absolutly anything at Gentry.

* Drag show at the Lazy J at 10:30 p.m.

* 800 Pacific block party: $1 well and $1.75 domestic longnecks! 9:00 to 9:30 pm at Santa Fe Bar and Patio, 9:30 to 10:00 pm at the Montrose Mining Company, 10:00 to 10:30 pm at J.R's Bar and Grill, and 11:00 pm to 11:30 pm at Heaven.

* "Down and Dirty" hosted by candidate Jerel McNeil and Don Gill; $1.75 well, beer, and wine at the Venture-N from noon until 9:00 pm.

* $1.75 well drinks and longnecks at Mary's from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm. After Hours until 4:00 am.

* Texas Pride Happy Hour 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm $2.25 well, $1.75 domestic longnecks, $3.50 Absolut Martinis and $4.50 doubles; $2.75 premium frozen drinks and premium draft beer, $3.25 super premium draft beer at J.R.'s Video Bar.

* After hours at the Ripcord until 4:00 am.

* $3.75 Bacardi Limonade; male dancers 9:00 pm to 2:30 am; happy hour until 10:00 pm; After hours until 4:00 am at the Montrose Mining Company.

* 21 and up tonight! No cover before 10:00 pm; $1 well drinks 9:00 pm to 11:00 pm; Doors open at 9:00 pm at Rich's.

* Ladies' Night at Club Incognito.

* Happy Hour until 10:00 pm at Berry Hill II.

* Power Hours with $1.75 domestic beer and well from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm; Happy Hour 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm with $2.25 domestic beer and $2.75 well cocktails; $2 Jose Cuervo at Chances.

* Wayne Gray and others play live at the BriarPatch!

* $1.50 well 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm; Mug Club 7:00 am to 10:00 pm; $1.50 vodka 7:00 am to 6:00 pm at E/J's.

Sunday, Nov. 24

* Cookout and Females in Search of Trouble (FIST) guest bartend at 5:00 pm; $1.75 well, beer, and wine at the Venture-N from noon until 9:00 pm.

* 99¢ well vodka juice drinks noon until 11:00 pm, $2.75 Shiner Bock: SRO Karaoke at 6:00 pm: Male Swim wear strip contest at 11:00 pm at J.R's Video Bar.

* Drawing for Dollars at Happy Hour; Open pool tables at the BriarPatch.

* Super Sunday Show at Club Incognito. 11:00 pm.

* Drink specials until 5:00 pm; Steak night from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm; at Brazos River Bottom.

* 50¢ draft beer; $1.75 Well drinks and longnecks from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at Mary's.

* Pool tournament, Bad Boys dance at 5:00 pm; "Oh My God, It Is Purple Balls" Show at 9:00 pm: Male Strip at 11:00 pm: $2 Kool-Aids at Gentry.

* Happy Hour until 10:00 pm at Berry Hill II.

* Happy Hour Noon to 8:00 pm at the Outpost.

* Male Overload at Pacific Street. Doors open at 7:00 pm; No shirt, no cover! $1.25 well, $1.75 beer. $3 call, $3.50 premium, $1.25 schnapps.

* Power Hours with $1.75 domestic beer and well from noon to 3:00 pm; Happy Hour 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm with $2.25 domestic beer and $2.75 well cocktails; $2 Jose Cuervo at Chances.

* $2 Mimosas and $1.75 well drinks; Tea Dance; Best Basket and Buns Contest 10:00 pm at Rascals.

* 18 and up welcome; $1 well, $2 beer, $3 call, Klub Kamp with Simply Divine and Lana Blake at 10:30 pm; Doors open at 8:00 pm at Rich's.

* Brunch at noon at the 611 Hyde Park Pub.

* $1.50 well and domestic beer all day/all night at the Ripcord.

Monday, Nov. 25

* Free HIV Testing and counseling by the Montrose Clinic at the Brazos River Bottom. 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

* Happy Hour 11:00 am to 8:00 pm at the Outpost.

* Happy Hour 7:00 am to 9:00 pm; $1.50 Well 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm; $1.50 vodka 7:00 am to 6:00 pm; Mug Club 7:00 am to 10:00 pm: Male Strip contest at E/J's. 11:00 pm.

* Power Hours with $1.75 domestic beer and well from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm; Happy Hour 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm with $2.25 domestic beer and $2.75 well cocktails; $2 Jose Cuervo at Chances.

* Texas Pride Happy Hour 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm $2.25 well, $1.75 domestic longnecks, $3.50 Absolut Martinis and $4.50 doubles; Martinis and Muscles! $3.75 top shelf Martinis, $2.25 domestic longnecks, frozen Margaritas $1.75; "Pump" male dance contest at 11:00 pm at J.R's Video Bar.

* Escape at Pacific Street! $1.25 well, $1.75 beer, $3 call, $3.50 premium, $1.25 schnapps; No cover until 11:00 pm.

* Half price lockers from noon to midnight at Club Houston.

* $1.75 well, beer, and wine at the Venture-N from noon until 9:00 pm.

* Bad Boys dance at 9:00 pm; $3.50 Crown Royal at Gentry.

* Wheel of Fortune and Drawing for Dollars at Happy Hour; Clint plays topless: Open pool tables at the BriarPatch.

* Monday night football on the big screen; free pizza; Miller Lite products for $1.50; Cuervo shots $2. Rascal's.

* $1.75 well drinks and longnecks from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm; $1.50 Well vodka drinks from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm; $1 longnecks at 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm at Mary's.

* $1.75 well and domestic beer at the Brazos River Bottom.

* Half-Price night at Midtowne Spa.

* Open pool tables at the 611 Hyde Park Pub.

* Happy Hour 1:00 pm to 8:00 pm; $2 domestic beer all night; free pizza at the Ripcord.

* $3.50 double well drinks, $1.75 well, $2 domestic longnecks; Pool tournament at 8:30 pm; male dancers 9:00 pm; Happy hour until 10:00 pm at the Montrose Mining Company.

Tuesday, Nov. 26

* Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic at Club Body Houston. 8:00 pm. 520-2083.

* Happy Hour until 10:00 pm; Female Dancers at BerryHill II. 10:30 pm.

* Texas Pride Happy Hour 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm $2.25 well, $1.75 domestic longnecks, $3.50 Absolut Martinis and $4.50 doubles; $2 well, wine, domestic longnecks and frozen Margaritas: Jockey short contest at 11:00 pm: Grab for Cash at midnight at J.R.'s Video Bar.

* Happy Hour 11:00 am to 8:00 pm at the Outpost.

* Executive Night at Pacific Street. No cover with your personal business card. $1.25 well, $1.75 beer, $3 call, $3.50 premium, $1.25 schnapps. Doors open at 9:00 pm.

* Power Hours with $1.75 domestic beer and well from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm; Happy Hour 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm with $2.25 domestic beer and $2.75 well cocktails; $2 Jose Cuervo at Chances.

* Bad Boys dance at Gentry at 9:00 pm; $2 Windex shots at Gentry.

* Happy Hour all day and all night at Rascal's.

* $1.75 well drinks and longnecks from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm; $1.50 Well vodka drinks from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm; $2 Cuervo at Mary's.

* Happy Hour 7:00 am to 9:00 pm; $1.50 well 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm; $1.50 Vodka 7:00 am to 10:00 pm; Mug Club 7:00 am to 10:00 pm; Amateur talent contest at 11:00 pm at E/J's.

* $1 well 7:00 am to 11:00 pm; $1 domestic longnecks at the Brazos River Bottom.

* $1.75 longnecks, $2.50 well, $3 any drink in the house; male dancers at 9:00 pm; Happy hour until 10:00 pm at the Montrose Mining Company.

* $1.75 well drinks and $1.50 domestic longnecks at Rascals.

* Half price lockers, rooms and video rooms from noon to midnight at Club Houston.

* Happy Hour 1:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Ripcord.

* Drawing for Dollars at Happy Hour: Marci holds court at the keyboard at the BriarPatch.

* Mr. and Ms. Black Gay Houston contest at Incognito. Call 237-9431 for details.

Wednesday, Nov. 27

* Free HIV testing and counseling by the Montrose Clinic at Mary's. 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

* Drawing for Dollars at Happy Hour; Saloon singer Beverly Sisco tickles the ivories at the BrarPatch.

* Mr. and Ms. Black Gay Houston contest at Incognito. Call 237-9431 for details.

* Bad Boys dance at 7:00 pm; Male Strip Contest with Dyan Michaels at 11:00 pm; $1.25 Schnapps at Gentry.

* Texas Pride Happy Hour 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm $2.25 well, $1.75 domestic longnecks, $3.50 Absolut Martinis and $4.50 doubles; $2 domestic longnecks, $2.75 Bacardi Limonade, $2.75 Desert Long Island Tea: Joe Boxer dance contest at 11:00 pm at J.R.'s Video Bar.

* $2 domestic longnecks & well drinks, $4 doubles; Male dancers at 9:00 pm; Happy hour until 10:00 pm at the Montrose Mining Company.

* $1.50 domestic longnecks; Lil' Rascals strip contest at 10:00 pm; Free happy hour buffet at Rascals.

* Power Hours with $1.75 domestic beer and well from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm; Happy Hour 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm with $2.25 domestic beer and $2.75 well cocktails; $2 Jose Cuervo at Chances.

* $1.75 well, beer, and wine at the Venture-N from noon until 9:00 pm.

* Prime Meet at Pacific Street. No cover with a "Be My Guest" pass. Doors open at 9:00 pm.

* $1.75 well drinks and longnecks; $1.50 Well vodka drinks from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm; Drink specials all day and all night at Mary's.

* Drink specials until 9:00 pm; $1.75 domestic longnecks at the Brazos River Bottom.

* Half-Price night and shower dancers at Midtowne Spa.

* Happy Hour until 10:00 pm at Berry Hill II. Free Pool Tables.

* Happy Hour 7:00 am to 9:00 pm: $1.40 well 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm: $1.50 Vodka 7:00 am to 6:00 pm. Mug club 7:00 am to 10:00 pm; Burger night at E/J's.

* $2 well and domestic beer all day/all night at the Ripcord.

* Happy Hour 11:00 am to 8:00 pm at the Outpost.

* $3 Pitchers, $1.75 well drinks at XTC.

* $1 well, $1.75 Budweiser and 75¢ Miller on tap; CD drawing; DJ Michael DeGrace takes you to the Edge: Doors open at 9:00 pm at Heaven.

Thursday, Nov. 28

* Free HIV testing and counseling by the Montrose Clinic at the Venture-N from 4:00pm to 8:00 pm.

* Burger Night at the 611 Hyde Park Pub.

* Happy Hour until 10:00 pm; Male Dancers at BerryHill II at 10:30 pm.

* Happy Hour 7:00 am to 9:00 pm; $1.50 well 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm; $1.50 vodka 7:00 am to 6:00 pm. Mug club 7:00 am to 10:00 pm; Tacos on the patio; South of the Border night at E/J's at 11:00 pm.

* Sexx Thursdays at Pacific Street. $1.25 well, $1.75 beer, $3 call, $3.50 premium, $1.25 schnapps. No cover with current gym card.

* Half-price lockers, rooms, and video rooms from noon to midnight at Club Houston.

* Bad Boys dance at 9:00 pm; $3 Skyy vodka. Thanksgiving buffet hosted by Jerel McNeil, candidate for Emperor XIII and Sean Carter at Gentry.

* Retro Rewind; $1.50 vodka drinks at Rascal's.

* $1.75 well drinks and longnecks from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm; $1.50 well vodka drinks from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm; 75¢ Schnapps at Mary's.

* $2.25 domestic longnecks, well, and wine; Male dancers at 9:00 pm; Happy hour until 10:00 pm at the Montrose Mining Company.

* $1.75 well, beer, and wine at the Venture-N from noon until 9:00 pm.

* BRB Thanksgiving Buffet at 3:00 pm. Drink specials until 11:00 pm: Burgers on the patio from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm; dance lessons at 9:00 pm at the Brazos River Bottom.

* Ripcord Buffet at 3:00 pm. Happy Hour 1:00 pm to 8:00 pm; Classic Rock night at the Ripcord.

* Happy Hour 11:00 am to 8:00 pm at the Outpost.

* Texas Pride Happy Hour 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm $2.25 well, $1.75 domestic longnecks, $3.50 Absolut Martinis and $4.50 doubles; $3.75 top shelf liquor, $2.25 Imported, Saint Arnold and Micro brewed beer: Star Search Gold Karaoke at 9:00 pm. Thanksgiving Buffet at 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm at J.R.'s Video Bar.

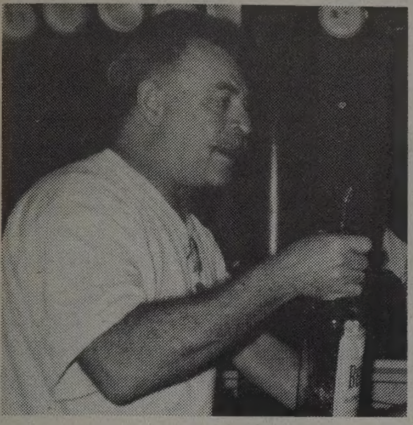
* Nancy Ford at Ms. B's at 8:30 pm to 10:00 pm, open mike and karaoke 10:30 pm to 1:00 am.

* Power Hours with $1.75 domestic beer and well from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm; Happy Hour 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm with $2.25 domestic beer and $2.75 well cocktails; $2 Jose Cuervo! Thanksgiving buffet at Chances.

* Drawing for Dollars at Happy Hour: Wayne Gray, Laurie Gage and new to the BriarPatch Edith Head perform live at the BriarPatch.

* La Cage, a night of Illusions at Incognito. Call 237-9431 for details.

Rodent Droppings wearing faux leather....



It must be snowing in Hell! Ed tends bar!

Oh, Miss Ouisa!

Uncle Phoebe enjoys a cocktail!

By CUERVOLYN

Important Stuff!

Matt Locklin at the AIDS Housing Coalition Houston has some empty rooms! They offer furnished rooms in a home-like atmosphere as well as free laundry, food assistance, and bills paid. You must be HIV + and drug and alcohol free. Rooms rent for $75 per week! Call Matt at 713/521-1613 for more info!

Santa Claus visits 219 Marshall on Dec. 7 The Pet Patrol will be there and you can have your pet's photo taken with Santa for only $5. (Yeah, can you see me trying to get Harvey and Ratrat to sit still for that long!) They will also have a holiday buffet! See you there!

The Ripcord's 14th Anniversary is coming up on Dec. 9. I can taste the shrimp already!

This Sunday at the Brazos River Bottom, Byron Norton-Mr. Montrose will present "Bam!" A totally upbeat show, no slow drag! Join Byron and his guests dynamic Nicole Blake, Day Leigh Edwards and Shawna St. John as well as others!

The guys and gals of the Houston Council of Clubs (You know they gang that brings you LUEY weekend) will be guest bartending "top" side of the Venture-N on Nov. 29!

Wow! Incognito, the club has a ton of stuff going on this weekend! Check out their ad on page 8 to all the scoop!

Theater Lab has the southwest exclusive premiere of "john & jen," a new musical about one sister, one brother, one mother, one son! Call for more info at 868-7516.

Basic Brothers has a new "Under Wear Boutique." Stop in and check it out!

There is a new reason to go to Heaven on Sundays! Register to win a pair of tickets to see Madonna as Evita! Evita opens on Jan. 1, 1997! Also on Sundays, Kofi and Kourtney Van Wales host the super Sunday show! Be nice to these two, they are the ones pulling the winning names!

Milestones!

A get mended soon wish to Lee (formerly of the Ripcord) Brown! He was hit by a car and has a broken leg!

A get well hug to Marlene's (Chances) brother who is recuperating from a heart attack.

A happy 10 year anniversary hug to John Dye and Dan Linquist of the Colt 45s.

A happy anniversary to Ofilia and Janis!

Happy birthdays to Janee Johnson and Crystal Rae Lee Love of the Court, Todd B., John E., and Jeff C. of the Houston Area Bears! Buddy Jackson has a birthday this week, too!

Lovely ladies!

Trash, Lies, and Gossip!

My usual disclaimer is in force!

Ratrat was not real happy while wearing his new faux leather biker jacket! It took me almost 30 minutes to wrestle the little critter into it and it took him less than 10 seconds to get out of the jacket! Ratrat kept running and hiding during our photo shoot! Poor little rat! I am such a mean mommy!

Rodent Rooter: I missed you! I'm glad your back!

Miss Ouisa (Mary's): And I quote: "Your concubines are the reason you can afford custom made leather gorilla jackets."

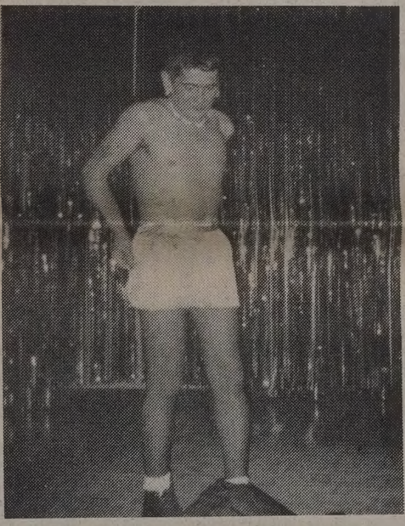
Helen: I hear that you are now a truck driver's widow! What do you think Cindy is doing while hanging out in truck stops?

Eddie (handsome man that hangs at the BRB): Watch what you say around me, especially if I have a pen in hand!

Steve (Chances): Do you really sweat that much, or was it the Cuervo?

Tom S. (Ripcord): And I quote: "You can lick it for free, but I charge for the other hole!"

Little Don (BRB): Why is there no coaster stuck to the bottom of your glass?



Sammy strips, but not for money!

Don Dowden: How did you sleep thru water sports?

Devin (formerly of Marys): I just love your baby, too!

Jerry Morin (RSICSS): I hear you moan a lot!

John B. and Don W. (Mr. Gulf Coast Leather): Did you like your hot wax bath? I hear Carmen likes to play with fire! What about you two?

Gimmie Pillsen Licker: And I quote: "I may wear dresses, but I am a butch man!"

Animal (BRB): You are a southern HO!

Jason (formerly of PS): Watch it, I have spies everywhere! And yes, I have been known to consume that golden nectar of the gods in large quantities!

Tommy (Hangs at Marys): What temperature do you have to set your oven at to blow up a pyrex dish?

Misty Hayze: I hear your "coming out" performance Friday at Chances was a show stopper! And then again on Sunday at Gentry! When you come out, you do it in a big way!

Stacy Gruemmer: If you kept them covered, then the dog wouldn't bite them!

Johnny Montgomery: If you are going to wear clothing that has zippers, then be prepared to be unzipped!

Jesse: You should be very careful what you say in mixed company! It will come back to get you! By the way, how is checks or is it tricks!

Guy and Skip: I love what you have done with your apartment!

George (hangs at Outpost): Nope, no airport gift shop in Jackson?

Jody B.(BRB): Hey, Bobby, do ya wanna huh do ya wanna huh huh?

Evalita: What is this about you and toothpaste on your legs?

Devon DeVasquez: What is this I hear about you and Nicole cruising a man on I-45 last Friday night?

Lane (Pacific Street): How many bartenders does it take to change a light bulb?

Jeff (Houston Area Bears): And I quote: "No wonder I can't get it open, it is on backwards!"

Kip (Gentry): Rest up honey! I hear you are going out of town with Reno (J.R.'s).

Chester (611-J.R.'s-E/J's): So, you are a little roasting ear now! Congrats "Nibblet!"

Kody (Chances): Have you been using the casting couch again?

Tuna (BRB): Just where is the Eiffel Tower?

David Duke (hangs at the BRB): Are you a "real" cowboy?

Darla K. (hangs anywhere they serve Bourbon & 7): I heard you can still "hit" the headboard! I hear some say that is because you are short!

Jennifer Ellsworth (RSI-CSS): I'm sorry honey! As I hear it a recent copy of the Houston Voice got your husbands attention more than you did while singing "God Bless America!"

Spike (hangs on every bar stool): I have a message from Don P.: "I wish someone would buy me a drink!"

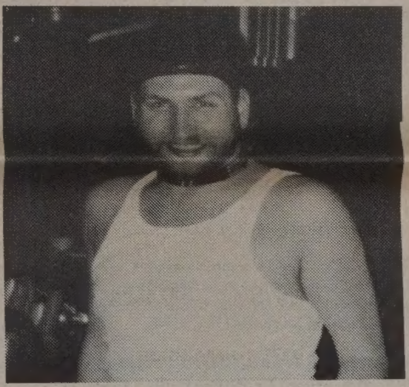
Carlos (PastTime): You would think a bar owner would know how to spell Vodka right! Check out your flyers! Just what is "vodca?"

Don P. (BRB): I hear you got a little tipsy last week and in your stupor you opened Pandora's Box! Why were you surprised when Robert fell out?

Scotty (Club Houston): Can't get it out?

Tommy Sue Ellen (BRB): On Sunday you get a trick. On Wednesday your looking in the yellow pages for Jiffy Lube! Are you dried out that quick? And yes, there really is a Santa, but he don't visit bad little boys like you!

Dave Williams (hangs at Gentry): How is that bank account after your 3 "appointments?"



Jeff guest bartends at PS for HCC.

Sam (BRB): You have been overheard singing "Little Things Mean a Lot." I wonder who you have been thinking about?

Ken Claude (Daddy of Montrose): Why all of a sudden do you like San Diego?

Kenny (Rascals): No, Chastity is not your middle name!

Bunny O'Hare (BriarPatch): Why do they tell me you are a mess?

Drew (BRB): Welcome back from your "quick" vacation!

Steve Nally (TWT): Don't you know what the words "Duty Free Shopping" mean!

Dana (hangs everywhere): How much PSI does that pump have?

Jerry Atwood and Steve Newsome: I hear you have been making "late night" appearances at the BriarPatch!

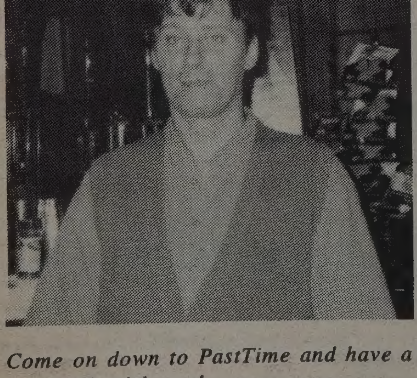
Wesley (Rascals): So, I have to dial 976 to reach you by phone?

Day Leigh Edwards: What is this I hear about you living with a twit? And I quote: " If it has a hole, you can put a flower in it!" Kinky, huh?

I spoke with Ray Downing this week! He is having a wonderful time in San Francisco! He has been experimenting with rubber!

Have a great week and enjoy Turkey Day!

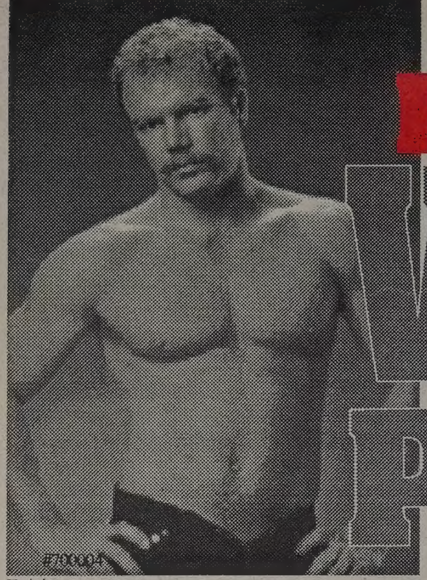
Cuervolyn



Come on down to PastTime and have a cocktail with me!

Dancing at Richs!

Get me out of this silly jacket!



HOUSTON VOICE PERSONALS

Women SEEKING Women

DF Bisexual. I need a woman, When I was married, I had a great relationship with my husband & our girlfriend. She got into drugs, so I had to let her go. I need a woman & I know how to treat one. Blonde hair, blue eyes, 5'4", 130 lbs., large breasts. I'm so sensuous. I'm a stand-up comic & a poet. I want to get to know you. Call Ext. **5245**

SWF My hobbies are playing pool, shooting darts, dancing & clubbing. Looking for a female in the age group of 25-40. I'm 190 lbs., 5'1" & a security guard. Call Ext. **5173**

SF If you like to be wined & dined, I'm the one. I'm cute, with a wonderful personality. Check me out. Desiring a sincere, honest & intelligent female. Call Ext. **5161**

SWF 43, non-smoker. Enjoy cooking, the mall & parks. Looking for love. Should be interesting & White or biracial. Call Ext. **5208**

SF 37, butch. I have a soft, romantic streak on the inside. I'm honest, intelligent, sincere & passionate about life. Looking for a butch top who is honest, upfront & trustworthy for fun & friendship. Maybe we can get together. Call Ext. **5251**

SF 44, 5'1", 120 lbs. I love animals, gardening, reading & trying new things. I'd like to meet some women, 30-45, in the Houston area, for friendship, hanging out & a possible long-term relationship. No smokers, drugs or heavy drinkers. Call Ext. **5138**

SBF I'm a 21-year-old, horny, Black female. If you want to know more, call & leave me a message. Call Ext. **5164**

SWF Late 40's. Looking for a White female to help me come out. I like fishing, hunting, dancing & boating. Give me a call. Call Ext. **5237**

SBF 45, 6'. Looking for companionship & romance. I like sex. I'd like to meet some interesting people. I like music & I live on the west side of town. Looking for a woman, no butch. Call Ext. **5194**

SWF Late 40's, 160 lbs., 5'8", green eyes, gray & brown hair. Seeking a relationship with a single gay female who is height/weight proportionate. Race is not important for companionship, friendship & possible romance. I'd like to meet a non-smoker. I'm considered soft butch. I'd like to meet a very feminine female. Call Ext. **5162**

SF College student, mature. Looking for a professional, mature woman who knows what she wants & is not afraid to go after it. Call Ext. **5262**

SWF 33, 5'3", 135 lbs. Looking for a single White female, soft butch or fem to hang out with or date. I like to dancing, theaters & going to antique stores. Call Ext. **5169**

SWF 30, 5'3", blonde hair, blue eyes. Looking for a female, 28-40, who is a soft butch. Wanting to date or hang-out. Like going to movies, boating, fishing, etc. I'm drug-free, alcohol-free & a non-smoker. Call Ext. **5215**

SWF 35. In search of a single White female, 30-45, for companionship & possibly more. Call Ext. **5248**

SWF 45, 160 lbs., 5'5", professional. Seeking companionship & friendship, possibly more. I'd like to meet a non-smoker. Seeking a Hispanic or White female. I enjoy the beach, going out, traveling & dancing. I'm a non-drinker. Call Ext. **5256**

SWF 5'7", 130 lbs., blonde hair, blue eyes, 20. Looking for a beautiful, feminine woman who is preferably the same as me. Wanting to share life. should like going to the beach, the movies & anywhere our hearts desire. I'm very attractive, so you must be also. No jokes or running around. Call Ext. **5207**

SF Looking for a feminine Black female to have a relationship with. I would like for her to be gay, height/weight proportionate & in her mid-40's. I'm available for a long-term relationship & friendship. Please call. Call Ext. **5197**

Men SEEKING Men

You've got it & I want it. You're Hispanic or Latin, dark-complected, a smoker, drug & alcohol-free, height/weight proportionate, mature. I'm a gay **White male**, 158-160 lbs., 5'8", brown hair, blue eyes, considered attractive, work out daily, very fit, mature, HIV- & a top. Interested in mature bottoms, no games. Interested in simple encounters, possibly more. Discretion is needed & will be given. Call Ext. **5267**

SHM 5'7", 170 lbs. Looking for Black males, between 23-35, who wánt to have fun. Give me a call. Call Ext. **5218**

SBM 27. Seeking other males who want to have fun. Give me a call. Call Ext. **5159**

SM Asian. In search of a Married White cop who needs to relieve the stress of work & family life. If you want some mid-day encounters, give me a call. Call Ext. **5189**

SWM 60, 5'8", 290 lbs., brown hair, blue eyes. I'm a bottom. Looking for guys in their 20's or 40's. Race is not important. Honesty & sincerity are prime factors. Let's share respect, love & an active physical relationship. I enjoy quiet times at home, dancing, traveling, the beach, dining in, dining out & the company of an affectionate friend. Call Ext. **5187**

SM 6'1", 200 lbs., brown hair, brown eyes, Cuban/French. Interested in guys who are versatile & 20-30. Race is not important. Looking for someone to really have a good time with. Sex would be great! Let's get good & nasty. Call Ext. **5177**

SBM 27. Seeking other Black males. I'd like to meet a top. I enjoy swimming, bowling, reading & having fun. I'd prefer to meet someone 20-30. Call Ext. **5158**

SWM 44, 5'9", 165 lbs. I'm a bottom, with brown hair & brown eyes. I'm clean-shaven, with short hair. I'm straight-acting & discreet. I enjoy giving blow jobs & receiving anal action. Looking for a White male who is a top man. Someone who is taller than me. Must be muscular, with above-average endowment. Smokers & light drinkers are okay. Call Ext. **5244**

SWM I'm a certified sailing skipper. I lost my captain to the North Carolina waters. Looking for a captain with a crew. I'm also interested in forming a gay sailing club. Call Ext. **5149**

SBM Handsome, 26, new to Texas. I hear things grow big in Texas. I'm very straight-acting & looking. In search of a 20-30-year-old who is straight-acting & appearing. Race is unimportant. Must be in shape. Call Ext. **5242**

SWM Late 30's, cute. Looking to meet an athletic Black guy who knows what he wants. Call me for more information. Call Ext. **5145**

SWM Attractive, 5'11", 180 lbs. Would like to meet a female impersonator. Call Ext. **5261**

SM Looking to meet some interesting & uninhibited guys to get together & have some versatile fun with. I like to give, as well as receive. Although, giving is my greatest joy in life. I consider it my duty in life to give pleasure to men. Call Ext. **5259**

SWM I'm a chubby nudist in search of other chubby nudists. I'm 38, 5'7" & 228 lbs., with strawberry-blonde hair & blue eyes. Race is not important. Call Ext. **5157**

SWM 50, 6', 190 lbs., brown eyes, brown hair. I'm HIV+ & a top daddy only. I prefer a single White male who is over 40 & less than 5'10". Must be a non-smoker. No drugs or femmes. Seeking someone who enjoys quiet life, movies, theaters & sci-fi. Call Ext. **5200**

SM Looking for someone for drinks & walks on the beach. Someone who is single, Black & manly to hang out & have a good time with. Call Ext. **5171**

SWM 5'7", 195 lbs., 45, furry, Italian, brown hair, attractive, easygoing, romantic. Enjoy the quiet life, movies, dining, entertaining & being a homebody. Looking for someone to develop a special friendship & long-term relationship with. If you're my ideal guy you'll be 35-40, able to support yourself & enjoy being a bottom. Blonde hair & blue eyes are a huge plus! Give me a call. Call Ext. **5170**

SWM 38, 190 lbs., 6', HIV+, healthy, active. I enjoy the arts & having laid-back fun. I'm retired & enjoying life. Looking for friendship & possibly more. Call Ext. **5253**

SWM 31, muscular, tan, smooth, 156 lbs. Like to meet a man who is stockier than I am. Not looking for a chubby guy. Would like to meet a top. If I sound attractive, leave a message. Call Ext. **5175**

SM I'm a cross-dressing transvestite. Looking for other transvestites who enjoy conversations, getting together, being sisters & having girl talk. I enjoy dressing up, going out, having drinks & pajama parties. Looking for a sister or close friend. Call Ext. **5203**

SWM Attractive, early 40's, 5'10", 175 lbs. Seeks femme-looking cross dresser or transsexual, 21-45, for dating, fun or a possible long-term relationship. Please respond. Call Ext. **5258**

SM Top man who is demanding, sane & safe. Looking for specially skilled bottom boys who like to serve & take what's coming to them. Should be 26-40. No training is necessary. I will take care of that myself. Call me quickly. Call Ext. **5257**

SHM Attractive, outgoing, 34. Searching for a special friend. Someone who is willing to understand my living with HIV for 10 years. Call Ext. **5255**

SWM 20, bi, brown hair, hazel eyes. I enjoy camping, fishing & more. Looking for someone who has a sense of humor who likes to party. If you think you are the one, leave me a message. Call Ext. **5236**

SWM 29, 6', 160 lbs., blonde hair, blue eyes, smooth chest, tan body. I'm a construction worker from Louisiana. Looking for a gay, White or Hispanic male to show me around, in more ways than one. Friends first, possibly more. No games. No chubbies or above. If you are 21-35, a brunette & 5'4" or taller, call me. I will bring you there. Call Ext. **5238**

SM 46, 6', bi curious. I have one or two experiences that were not satisfactory. I would like to meet someone to help me investigate it more. Contact me. Call Ext. **5266**

SBM 33, 6', slender, smooth, HIV+, very healthy & active. I love music, sports, dining in, dining out & cuddling. I'm very flexible & willing to try other things. Looking for Black males for friendship & a possible relationship. I'm honest, sincere & trustworthy. Must like to have fun. Call Ext. **5265**

SWM Brown hair, very blue eyes, 5'9", 180 lbs., very muscular, 34. Looking for a very sensuous, feminine TV or TS. Let's have a really good time & see where it goes. Call Ext. **5232**

SWM 27, 6'3", 195 lbs., in very good shape. Looking for a gay White man who is 27 or older, tall & masculine, to have fun with. Call Ext. **5231**

SWM 37, dark olive complexion, very muscular, husky, 168 lbs. Looking for a guy who is larger than myself, very masculine & enjoys being a top. I would like to talk to you in person, if this fits your description. Call Ext. **5201**

SWM 40, 5'11", 230 lbs., football player build, professional, HIV+, excellent health. Looking for someone 30-50, for friendship & a possible relationship. Enjoy traveling, the theater, cooking & quiet evenings at home. Prefer a non-smoker, non-drug user who can enjoy life to the fullest. Call Ext. **5223**

SBM 22, 5'11", 143 lbs. In search of a single White male, 18-30, who is pretty masculine, handsome & not into games. Call Ext. **5229**

SWM 36, HIV+, 6'2", 160 lbs. Looking for love in all the wrong places. I'm fun-loving, humorous & open-minded. I'm a light drinker & smoker. I'm somewhat Bohemian with an appreciation for the finer things in life. I enjoy quiet evenings at home with an occasional night out on the town. Call Ext. **5264**

SWM Handsome, 37, 5'8", 172 lbs. I work out frequently & I'm muscular. I'd like to meet a guy in his late 30's to mid-40's who is good-looking. Must like to have a lot of fun. He should enjoy being a real top guy. If you want to play with my nice, smooth muscular body, give me a call. Call Ext. **5201**

SM 37, 5'8", 165 lbs., attractive, brown hair, dark-complected. I'd like to meet a guy my age or older who is in good shape & attractive. Should prefer to be a top. Seeking a fairly active guy. If you have a good sense of humor & you like to have fun, give me a call. Call Ext. **5123**

SM 46, 6', 280 lbs., graying hair. Seeking a gay White, Asian or Hispanic male, 25-50, who is drug & disease-free. He should be slim-to-medium-built, with fuzzy legs. I enjoy friends, music & honesty. I'm compassionate & affectionate. Call Ext. **5192**

SWM 34, 6'1", 275 lbs., brown hair, brown eyes. I own my own business. I enjoy movies, dining in, dining out & intimacy. I have a lot of love to give. Looking for someone to love & get to know. Possible long-term relationship. Call Ext. **5186**

SWM 41, 6', 190 lbs. Looking for a top daddy who is 40-50, to take care of. Also looking for a top cowboy to ride me all night & then hold me. Must be open-minded, with above-average equipment. Willing to wear collar for the right daddy. Call Ext. **5163**

SWM Attractive, 38, HIV+, long brown hair, brown eyes, mustache & beard. I'm straight-acting & appearing. I like to enjoy life, concerts, movies, traveling & good friends. I'm retired, healthy & financially secure. Looking for that special friend who is also straight-acting & appearing, with similar interests. Looking for someone who wants to get out & enjoy life. Call Ext. **5178**

SM Leave me a message & I will call you as soon as I can. Call Ext. **5233**

SWM I'm a very young 43-year-old, sailing skipper looking for a sailing captain. I'm a 6', 220 lb. teddy bear. I'm considered stocky, beefy & a linebacker build. I have red, strawberry-blonde hair, hazel-green eyes, a mustache & a hairy chest. Looking for guys with similar qualities, or those who are attracted to my qualities. Also looking for a gay sailing club & interested in forming one if one is not out there. Call Ext. **5212**

SBM In search of other masculine Black males who are 19-45. Seeking someone who is well-endowed & masculine. Call Ext. **5154**

SHM 5'8", 175 lbs. I have dimples & a pretty smile. Looking for someone who has a good personality. Looks are not important. Call Ext. **5141**

SM 35, 5'10", 175 lbs., blue-gray eyes, dark brown hair, goatee. Considered very attractive & well-endowed, with an athletic build. Gentleman, I'm only looking for this & the description must be precise. You're handsome, under 35, muscular, with a small waist & 10" or more. Call Ext. **5172**

SWM Gay, 41, 5'5", green eyes, reddish-blonde hair. Enjoy quiet evenings at home, movies, rock 'n roll music & playing board games on occasion. Looking for a White or Hispanic male to spend some time with. Call Ext. **5220**

SWM 31, 5'5", 145 lbs. I'm very boyish-looking. Looking for a gay, White or Hispanic male, 21-32, who likes sports, rock music, cars, traveling & casinos. Call Ext. **5252**

SWM 5'7", brown hair, brown eyes, 43. I like music, arts, opera, the theater, museums & quiet dinners at home. I also enjoy kissing, cuddling & touching. I'm open to new & varied interests. I'm a laid-back, sensitive & down-to-earth person. I'd like to meet Hispanic, White or Asian males who are between 25-50. Call Ext. **5240**

SHM 32, thin. Seeking a gay White or Hispanic male who is 32 or older. Seeking a lifemate. Serious replies only. No games. I don't drink or smoke. I need sincerity & stability. Call Ext. **5160**

SWM 5'8", brown hair, smooth muscular body, olive-complected. I'd like to meet a top who has body & facial hair. Must like to have a lot of fun. Call Ext. **5190**

SWM I'm 5'9", 130 lbs. & masculine. Looking for a Black brother who is the same. Someone who is 18-28, self-assured, masculine & not into games. Call Ext. **5094**

I'm a **married man**, 40's, 5'9", 165 lbs., clean, discreet & HIV-. Looking for sexual buddies who are the same & want to go out & have fun. Call soon. Call Ext. **5228**

White male, 38, blondehair, blue eyes, athletic. I'm wealthy, married & bored. You must be young, hot & a little wild. I'm a healthy, imaginative top. Call Ext. **5227**

SM 5'11", 190 lbs., goatee, blue eyes, salt 'n pepper hair, hairy body. Like to have fun with friends. Interested in Hispanics. Leave a message. Call Ext. **5219**

Gay **male**, 23, 6'1", 172 lbs., dark hair, dark eyes, well-toned, smooth. Looking for bodybuilders to have good times with. I'll call you back. Call Ext. **5195**

SWM 5'11", 155 lbs., blonde hair, bluish-green eyes. Looking for Hispanic males 18-35. I enjoy going to the beach, the gym & hanging out with friends. Call Ext. **5155**

SHM 34, attractive, bottom. Looking for masculine guys for friendship, romance or simple encounters. I like guys who are taller than 5'7". Race is not important. Positive attitude is a plus. I'm discreet & friendly. Please be over the age of 25 & confident of your own needs. Call Ext. **5143**

SWM 39, dark hair, blue eyes, 5'6", 170 lbs., hairy chest. I'm romantic, loyal, sincere & gentle, yet strong. I'm outgoing, with a quiet side. I love music, art & life in general. I'm HIV- & seeking a younger gay male who is Asian, Hispanic or White. Looking for fun & a relationship. Please leave a message. Call Ext. **5137**

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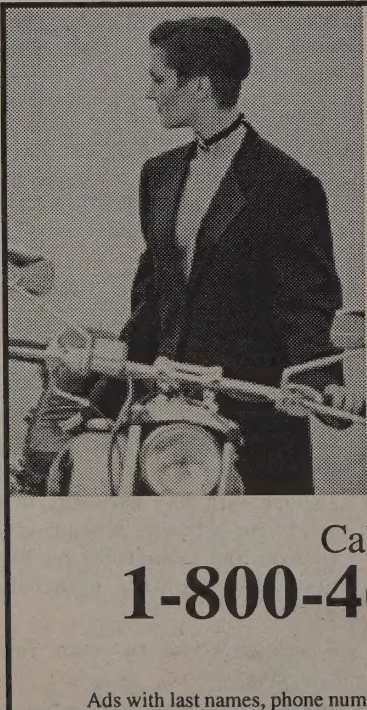

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Aspen Ski Week

Aspen, Colorado, USA—Jan. 25th to Feb. 1, 1997 Gays and Lesbians will descend on the town of Aspen, Colorado for a week of world class skiing, shopping, dining, partying and socializing. Aspen Gay Ski Week, the largest and longest running Gay and Lesbian winter event on the Planet, will be celebrating its 20th anniversary in this world class ski town. Organizers of the event expect more than 5000 people during the week.

"It is difficult to believe that this event has grown so huge," says Dave Lendon, reflecting on the evolution of Ski Week. Lendon, organizer of this year's event, remembers when the week had less than 500 participants mostly from Colorado, "Now we have thousands from all over the world."

Touted as a charitable and educational event, Aspen Gay Ski Week has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for charity over the last several years. Jim Tomberlin, past organizer of the event and Aspen business owner says, "Ski Week has always been an event run by volunteers for the soul purpose of educating ourselves about Gay and Lesbian issues and raising money for charities of Gay and Lesbian interests." However, don't let the serious purpose underlying Ski Week scare you into thinking that it is a bore. "There are so many events during the week that there is no way to get bored," says Lendon.

Each day is packed full of events like " The 2nd Annual Coors Light Aspen Mountain 'Bump Your Buns' Downhill Costume Party and Competition," a drag and costume competition and party on skis. The costume competition is so huge that nearly the entire town of Aspen gets involved on some level, dressing up at work and school. "Store owners close their shops to see this event," says Tomberlin.

In addition to the costume party, there are Apres ski parties and Tea Dances each day attracting thousands of people, special women's events, ski and snowboard competitions and benefits. "One of our most popular benefits is the Caribou Club AIDS benefit. Each year the very exclusive Caribou Club, a private millionaires club, opens its doors to ski week participants with all the money from food, drinks and admissions going to AIDS charities," says Lendon. Other activities include comedy nights, ballets, ice skating, special dinners, a week long film festival, cross-country skiing, the Aspen Human Rights Summit II and even a fashion show.

Of course there are parties. Lots of them. In addition to a huge opening party and closing party, this year will play host to a '70's retro night complete with Stars and acts from the disco days. "We will be booking a few acts that were popular in the 70's to perform for the crowd," says Tomberlin. Each night has at least two parties including special women's only parties.

Organizers hope that Aspen Gay Ski Week can increase its international crowd. "We are getting a lot of exposure overseas, especially in Europe," says Lendon, "Aspen is a place that everyone should visit and Ski Week is a party that no Gay or Lesbian should miss."

Anyone interested in attending Aspen Gay Ski Week or finding out more can call the Aspen Ski Week Information and Reservation Hotline, a service of Circuit Event Travel, by calling 800.984.8863 or 970-925-9500, X625, or e-mail to "GaySkiWeek@aol.com."

The organizing committee has a Ski Week office set up in the Aspen Gay & Lesbian Community Fund office which can reached by phone at 970-925-4123, by e-mail at aspengay@rof.net, or check out the home page at http://www.rof.net/yp/aspengay.

With Election Year '96 End Comes Time to Act on AIDS

By CHRISTINE LUBINSKI

In an era in which political actions are determined by polls and surveys, the deafening silence around AIDS issues was truly disappointing, as was the failure by candidates to articulate a coordinated response to an epidemic that has claimed more than 320,000 American lives and threatens many more. A Sept. 15 Washington Post poll revealed that silence on AIDS is a tragic mistake. When 61 percent of Americans polled indicate that the worry that "AIDS will become more widespread" ties at No. 2 with the worry that "crime will increase," and ranks only one point below concerns about our educational system, silence should be considered unacceptable. Yet, silence is exactly what was delivered by politicians and the media alike.

Now that the election year frenzy has ended and the American electorate has re-elected Bill Clinton to a second term and maintained a Republican majority (albeit by a narrow margin in the U.S. House of Representatives) in both chambers of Congress, it is once again time to go about the business of fighting the battle against AIDS. In the wake of election year 1996, AIDS Action looks forward to nurturing our relationships with key Clinton administration officials and with members of the Republican-controlled 105th Congress, relationships which in the 104th Congress resulted in significant AIDS funding increases and successes in defeating blatantly discriminatory measures aimed at people living with HIV and AIDS.

We also look forward to educating new members of the 105th Congress, both Democrats and Republicans, and Clinton administration officials about the importance of fortifying an already fragile AIDS care and social services infrastructure and protecting hard-fought AIDS anti-discrimination gains. With campaigning finally over, AIDS Action urges our elected officials to roll up their sleeves and work in a bipartisan way to find a cure and vaccine for this terrible epidemic, prevent new infections, and adequately care for those already infected. The American people have sent a clear message to our newly elected officials and to those already sitting in an elected office: Your priorities had better reflect what really matters to the American public, and that includes AIDS.

Founded in 1984, AIDS Action Council is dedicated to defeating the AIDS epidemic and improving the quality of life for HIV-infected Americans. AIDS Action Council represents all people with HIV and AIDS and over 1400 community-based AIDS organizations that serve them.

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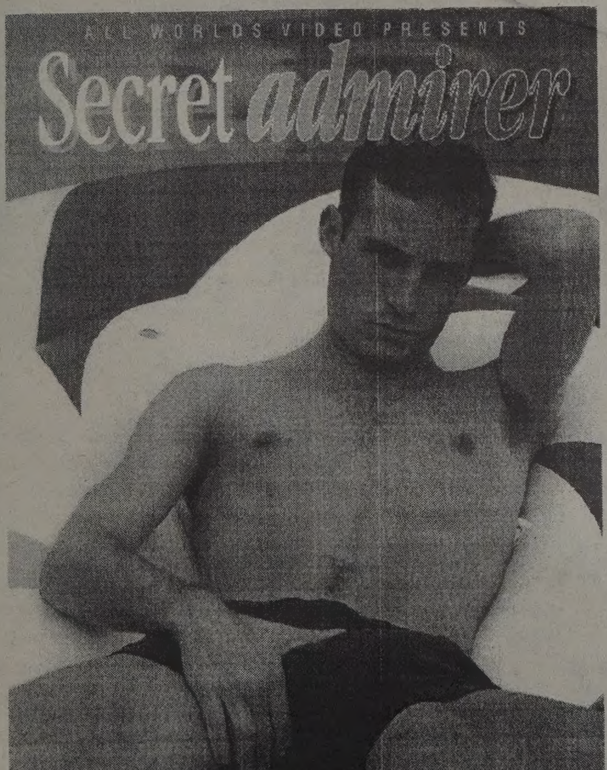

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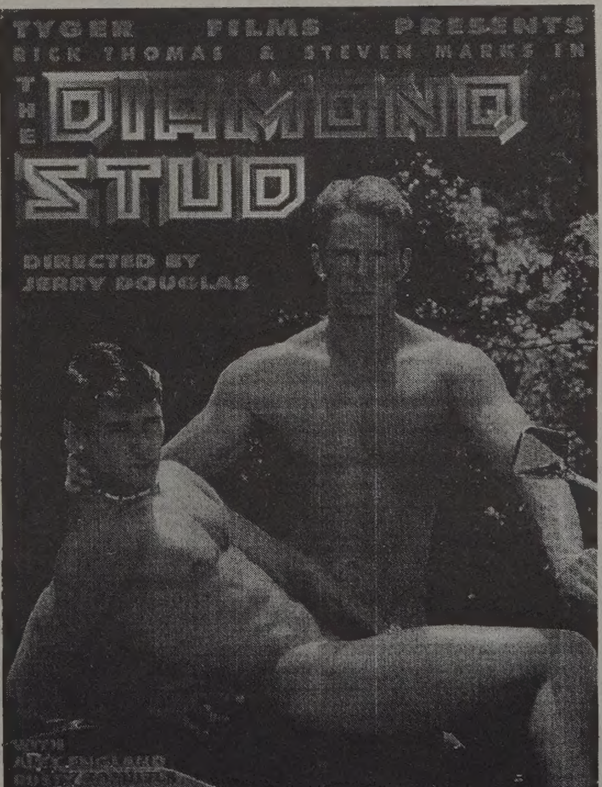

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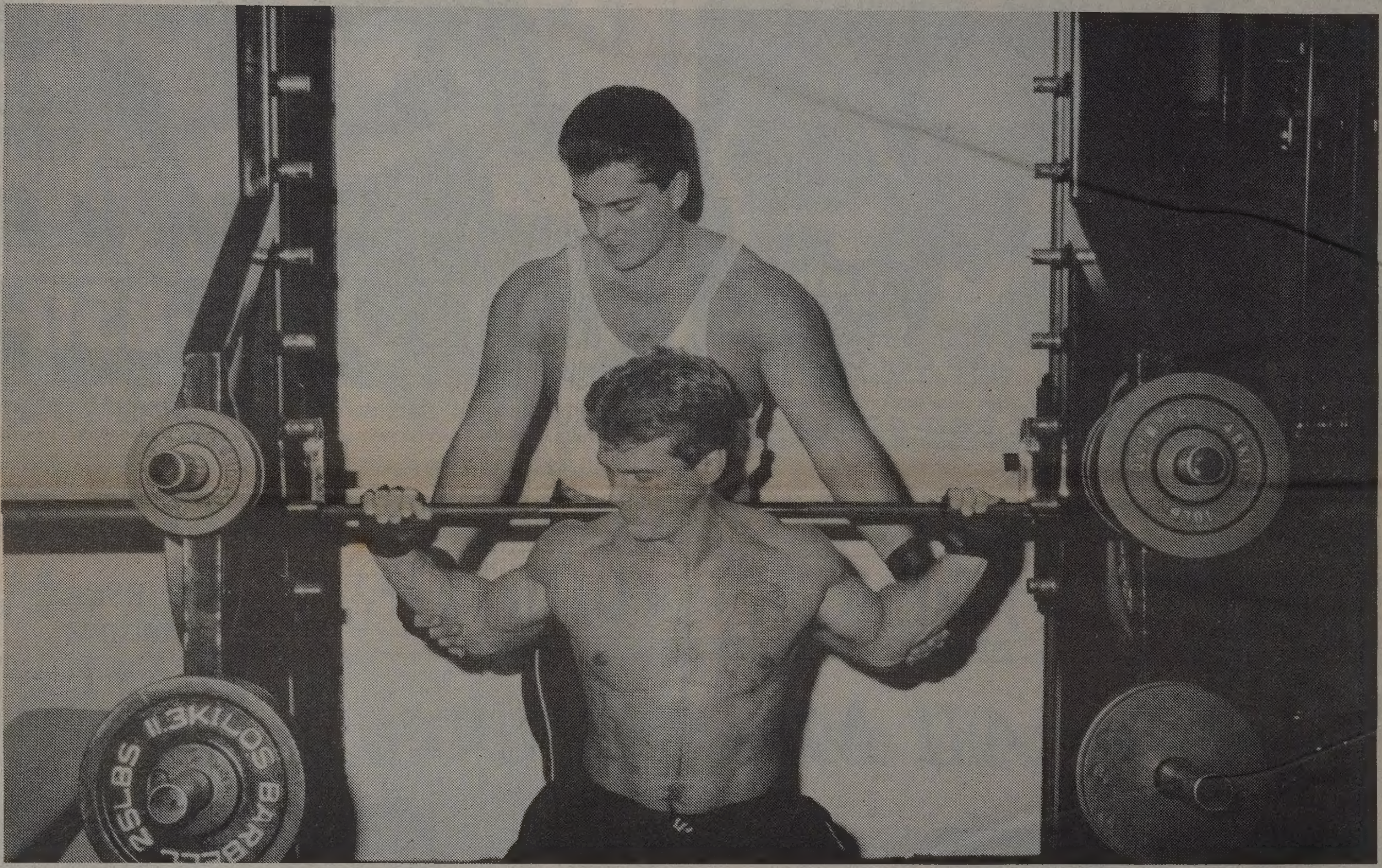

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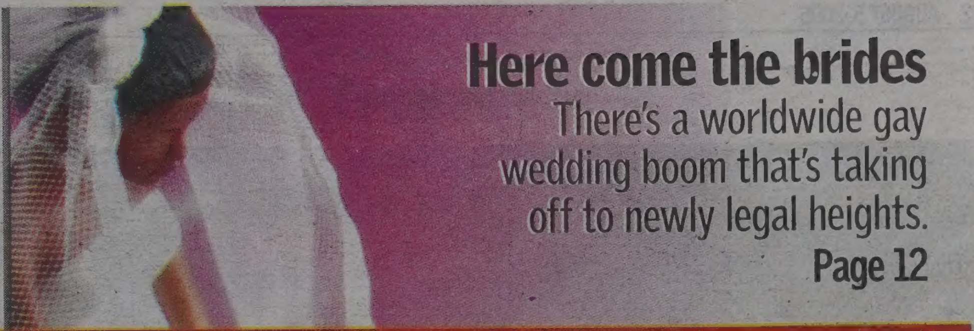


Here come the brides
There's a worldwide gay wedding boom that's taking off to newly legal heights.
Page 12

THIRTY YEARS OF NEWS FOR YOUR **LIFE**. AND YOUR **STYLE**. www.houstonvoice.com AUGUST 5, 2005

NEW AFH HEAD: New CEO is a familiar face. **Page 3**

SOLITARY MAN: McGreevey retreats into exile. **Page 5**

RYAN WHITE ACT: Concern over fund realignment. **Page 6**

Roberts criticized 'privacy rights' doctrine in article

New documents may hint at nominee's position on gay cases

By **LOU CHIBBARO JR.**

Documents released this week by the National Archives show that Judge John G. Roberts Jr., President Bush's nominee to the U.S. Supreme Court, expressed strong objections to the extent that the high court has recognized a citizen's fundamental right to privacy.

According to the Washington Post, the documents show that Roberts drafted an article for then Attorney General William French Smith in 1981, which revealed Roberts' skepticism of the Constitution's so-called "right to privacy" doctrine. The court has invoked this doctrine in a number of landmark cases, including the 2003 decision in Lawrence vs. Texas, which overturned state sodomy laws.

"[T]he broad range of rights which are now alleged to be 'fundamental' by litigants, with only the most tenuous connection to the constitution, bears ample witness to the dangers of this doctrine," Roberts wrote in the draft article, according to the Post.

Roberts added a quote to the draft from a dissenting opinion by former Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black in a 1965 decision, in which Black criticized the majority on the court for overturning a Connecticut law banning the use of contraceptives, the Post reported. The majority opinion overturning the law used "a loose, flexible, uncontrolled standard for holding laws unconstitutional," Roberts approvingly quoted Black as saying.

The newly emerging information on Roberts' judicial views is being analyzed by gay rights attorneys, who have expressed concern about Roberts' possible handling of a number of gay rights cases that could

'[T]he broad range of rights which are now alleged to be 'fundamental' by litigants, with only the most tenuous connection to the constitution, bears ample witness to the dangers of this doctrine,' John Roberts wrote in a draft article in 1981.

Please see **SUPREME COURT** on **Page 7**

Felicia Galloway-Hall is congratulated on her endorsement by attorney **Phyllis Randolph Frye** as another endorsed candidate, Peter Brown, looks on. (Photo by Dalton DeHart)

GLBT Political Caucus issues endorsements

Caucus president says 2005 city election endorsements reflect the the diversity that exists in Houston

By **BINNIE FISHER**

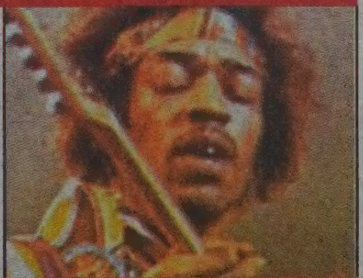
If there is one thought that Maria Gonzales said she hopes comes out of the Aug. 3 meeting to issue endorsements for the Nov. 8 elections it is, "We endorsed the people of Houston."

On Nov. 8, voters in Houston will cast ballots for mayor, controller, At-Large City Council positions as well as district coun-

Please see **CAUCUS** on **Page 3**

Local life
From helping gay youth to promoting gay films, **Deb Murphy**'s life is full.
PAGE 8

dish
A new book claims the Army let rock legend **Jimi Hendrix** go because he said he was gay.
PAGE 18



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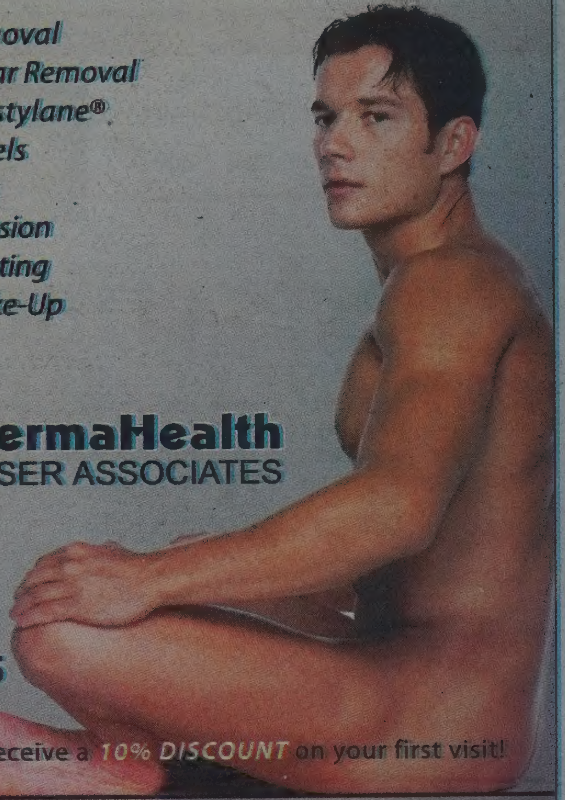

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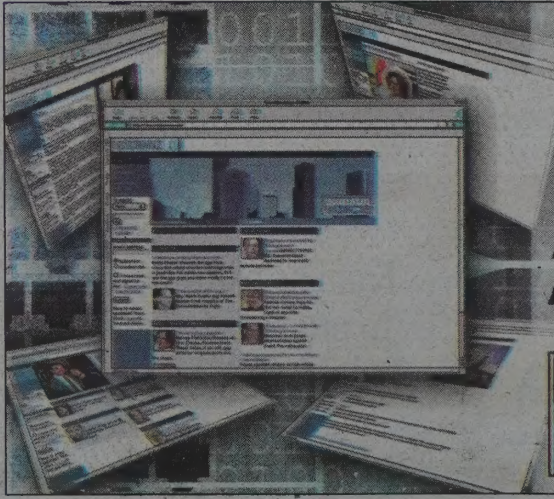

ALL DAY
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ALL THE NEWS
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local news briefs

Kelly McCann, AIDS services advocate, is new CEO at AIDS Foundation Houston

Kelly McCann is the new Chief Executive Officer at AIDS Foundation Houston.

The Board of Directors at AIDS Foundation Houston, Inc. (AFH) has appointed Kelly McCann as new Chief Executive Officer. Previously, she served as Vice President of Community Resources at AFH where she managed the Education and Volunteer Services departments. McCann, who has 20 years of experience in fields of HIV services, corrections and community mental health and was recently appointed an external consultant for the Surgeon General's Call to Action on Correctional Health Care. "AFH has a great mission and an impressive 23-year history of providing prevention education and AIDS-related services to the community," McCann said. In addition to her work with AFH, McCann is project director for Project Wall Talk, a peer health education program for offenders within the Texas Department of Corrections. Project Wall Talk is one of four federally funded Peer Education Training Sites in the nation and the only one that serves incarcerated populations. McCann holds a Bachelor of Science in psychology from Sam Houston State University. She has also completed graduate work in Clinical Psychology from Sam Houston State University and Counseling/Educational Psychology from Texas A & M University.

Montrose Clinic has an open house for Community Health Center Week

The Montrose Clinic at 215 Westheimer will host an Open House from 10 a.m. to noon Aug. 9 to coincide with Community Health Center Week from Aug. 8-15. The clinic is one of nine Federally Qualified Health Centers in Houston and one of 23 clinics that provide services to the city's uninsured and underinsured population. "It's important for the clinic to ensure that its clients continue to receive quality health care even with the loss of insurance or disability status from living with HIV," said "Recognizing this need led to the clinic becoming a (Federally Qualified Health Care Center). Through this the clinic is able to access medications more cost effectively, which will lead to an in-house pharmacy coming later this fall."

Caucus gets a new name and a snazzy new logo

HOUSTON
GLBT
POLITICAL CAUCUS

Maria Gonzales, president of the Houston GLBT Political Caucus (PAC) holds up the organization's new logo during the group's candidate endorsement meeting. (Photo by Dalton DeHart)

Earlier in the year, the Houston GLBT Political Caucus (PAC) changed its name by replacing "gay and lesbian" with GLBT to be more inclusive. At the group's Aug. 3 candidate endorsement meeting, a new logo was unveiled that reflects the name change. Scott A. Tevington of N.E.O. Graphic Design Services designed the new logo that incorporates the name of the caucus and red, white and blue stars with streamers on a black background.

Intervening in the Drama of Addiction is next at Montrose Counseling Center

An upcoming workshop at Montrose counseling Center is designed for anyone living with an addicted partner, spouse or relative. Bob Hergenroeder, Chemical Dependency Program Coordinator at the center, said he hopes the workshop will help anyone living with an addicted person determine how best to intervene. "It takes a village to support an addiction," he said, adding that the addicted person may choose to leave or be evicted from the village. If villagers intervene, then he said, they must be willing to recover along with the addicted person. "The person with the active addiction must accept responsibility and so must the villagers," he said. The workshop is planned on four consecutive Monday evenings Sept. 12 through Oct. 3 at 6:30 p.m. There is no charge for the sessions, but donations are accepted. The center is located at 701 Richmond St. 713-529-5511, www.montrosecounselingcenter.org.

Task Force is looking for gay families to appear in TV ads about marriage

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force is seeking same-sex couples and their families to appear in statewide TV ads to begin running in September regarding the importance of marriage. For more information, call 713-743-8094.

From staff and wire reports

local news

Endorsements reflect stance

CAUCUS, continued from Page 1

cil seats. In endorsing candidates in each race, Gonzales said, the caucus has created an endorsement card that represents the face of Houston.

She pointed out that the endorsements cut across race lines,

For mayor, the group endorsed incumbent Bill White, who two years ago garnered more than 60 percent of the vote in his bid for a first term. Thus far, he has drawn no opponents in his bid for re-election.

Also running unopposed so far and also gaining the caucus endorsement is Houston City Controller Annise Parker. She also won by a better than 60 percent majority in her 2003 bid for office.

"They just appeal to a broad base," Gonzales said.

Parker, an out lesbian, served three terms on the City Council before running for controller.

Gonzales pointed out that with Parker, voters don't seem to be concerned about her sexual orientation.

"Annise is recognized for her talent and skills, for who she is and for the content of her character," she said.

Another out lesbian, Sue Lovell, is making her second run for council, this time seeking the At-Large, Position 2 seat. Gonzales said Lovell also seems to have broad-based appeal.

"We're pretty confident she's going to do well," Gonzales said. "A lot of people say she's run a very good campaign. She has the ability to talk one-on-one with people, to get out to civic organizations. It's a city-wide race. You just have to do everything you can."

She added, "She and Annise are representative of the kind of candidates we want out there."

Her opponents are Jay Aiyer and John Elford.

No fair-weather friends

The caucus has endorsed architect and urban designer Peter Brown for the At-Large, Position 1 seat. He received the endorsement in 2003 but did not get elected. Gonzales said Brown is among those candidates who have supported gays and lesbians on the issues that affect them.

"The people we endorse are not fair-weather friends," she said.

In District B, the endorsement was handed to Felicia Galloway-Hall, who is running in the seat now occupied by her mother, Carol Mims Galloway. The elder Galloway is completing her third and final term on the council.

Gonzales said Galloway-Hall screened well with the caucus. "She's working very hard. There's still some learning to do, but I think she is going to be a good leader."

Her mother was the first African American woman elected to District B.

She will run in a field of five candidates that also includes Tommy Ruth Allen, Willie Hunter, Angel Bush and Jarvis Johnson.

Herman Litt is the endorsed candidate in the race for the District C seat. Although other candidates in the race sought the endorsement, Gonzales said, Litt stood out.

While council elections are touted as being non-partisan, Gonzales said the other District C Republicans screening for the endorsements were all Republicans.

"We're very pleased to get the opportunity to screen Republicans," she said. "They all did a good job. They take it seriously, and we take our process seriously."

The District C race also includes Mark Lee, Anne Clutterbuck, Brian Cweren, George Hittner, Ray Jones and Judy Siverson.

Incumbents Ada Edwards in District D, Adrian Garcia in District H and Carol Alvarado in District I all won caucus endorsements. All are running unopposed except for Alvarado, who will run against John Parras.

In addition to their track records on gay issues, Gonzales said all three were endorsed because they have exhibited solid leadership skills.

She said it is no accident that many of the endorsed candidates represent racial minorities.

"They understand minority status," she said. "African Americans recognize what it's like to be scapegoated and under attack. They understand what it's like to be used for political gain."

There are no national or state races on the ballot in November, but Gonzales pointed out that the caucus is urging voters to cast their ballots against a proposed constitutional amendment that would ban not only same-sex marriage but also civil unions.

Houston City Controller **Annise Parker** (center) celebrated her endorsement with her partner **Kathy Hubbard**, and their daughters, **Daniela** and **Marquitta**. (Photo by Dalton DeHart)

MORE INFO

Houston GLBT Political Caucus (PAC)
2005 Endorsements
Mayor – Bill White
Controller – Annise Parker
Houston City Council
At-Large Position 1 – Peter Brown
At-Large Position 2 – Sue Lovell
District B – Felicia Galloway-Hall
District C – Herman Litt
District D - Ada Edwards
District H – Adrian Garcia
District I - Carol Alvarado

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national news

Gay blogger released from 'ex-gay' camp

Tenn. teen criticizes gay activists, who say new posts reflect coercion

By ANDREW KEEGAN

A gay Tennessee teen who gained worldwide attention after detailing his fear of being sent to an "ex-gay" camp in an Internet posting said the entire situation has been blown out of proportion, according to his latest blog.

But some gay activists who oppose the camp said the posting shows signs of intimidation.

After coming out to his parents, Zach Stark, 16, was enrolled on June 6 at Refuge for a reported eight-week session at a cost of more than $4,000. The Christian facility, a branch of Love In Action located near Memphis, Tenn., works to convert gay youth to heterosexual orientation. It receives adolescent referrals from Exodus, an organization devoted to helping gay adults become heterosexual.

Stark's June 3 blog about coming out to his parents and his uncertainty about the upcoming retreat included suicidal thoughts, which quickly garnered widespread attention.

But in his latest blog, posted Aug. 1, Stark states that he "is annoyed toward a lot of things," including that Love In Action was misrepresented.

There is no mention of what transpired during the 56-day stay at Refuge by the youth from Bartlett, Tenn. Stark says that homosexuality is still a "factor" for him, but he won't let it "run my life." He also includes an apparent slap at gay activists who led a campaign against Love In Action.

"I refuse to deal with people who are only focused on their one-sided (biased) agendas," Stark writes. "It isn't fair to anyone."

Activists won't abandon protest

John Smid, Love In Action's executive director, declined to comment on Stark's postings, while gay groups said they would continue to question the ex-gay program's efforts.

Stark's original posting led Memphis residents to form the Queer Action Coalition, which began daily demonstrations at the Love In Action offices to raise awareness of the dangers of ex-gay therapy. According to one of the group's co-founders, Morgan Fox, the protests continued for two weeks, beginning the day Stark was admitted.

"At the height of the protest we had about 80 people outside the offices," Fox said.

Responding to the teen's latest blog, Fox said the group has great respect for Stark.

"We have always tried to protect his identity and his rights," he said, noting the group never divulged the teen's last name, which was obtained by media outlets. "But we've always said from the beginning that this is not all about Zach."

Since Stark's blog post, Queer Action Coalition has received numerous e-mails from former Love In Action clients disputing the organization's claim of reforming gays, Fox said.

"We responded in forming QAC because it was frightening to read about a kid having to deal with this," he said. "We absolutely will not judge Zach. What we will do is focus on the message that Love In Action promotes — a lot of people have been harmed by their claim to offer choice."

Wayne Besen, a gay author who studies the ex-gay movement and has followed Stark's plight, said he is certain that some type of coercion was exerted on the teen, given the wording of his latest blog.

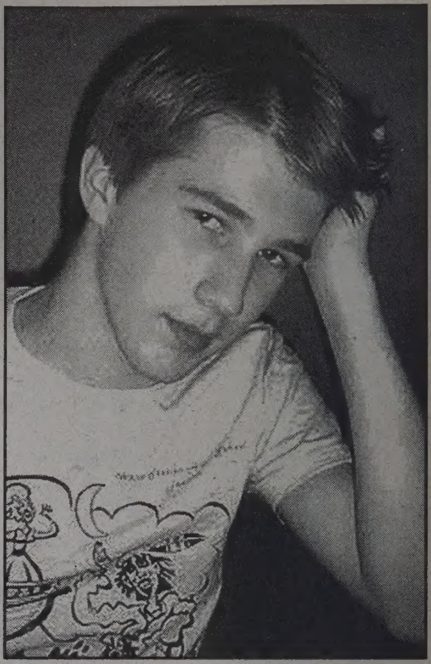
"It's disconcerting because the boy who blogged before entering the program has a different voice," said Besen, author of "Anything But Straight: Unmasking the Scandals and Lies Behind the Ex-Gay Myth."

"The boy who blogged after the program is no longer a free-spirited young man," he said.

Besen points to several words in the latest blog as proof of intimidation.

"[Zach] now uses right-wing buzz words like 'agendas' and how homosexuality is a 'factor' in his life," he said.

Besen recently posted on his Web site, www.waynebesen.com, a letter by a co-founder of Love In Action criticizing the conversion program.



Zach Stark, the 16-year-old gay blogger who sparked a controversy after writing about being sent to an 'ex-gay' facility by his parents, returned home after an eight-week program.

Former ex-gay John Evans, who co-founded Love In Action with Rev. Kent Philpott in 1973, sent the letter July 30 to Smid, the ministry's current director.

"In the past 30 years since leaving the 'ex-gay' ministry I have seen nothing but shattered lives, depression, and even suicide among those connected with the 'ex-gay' movement," Evans wrote.

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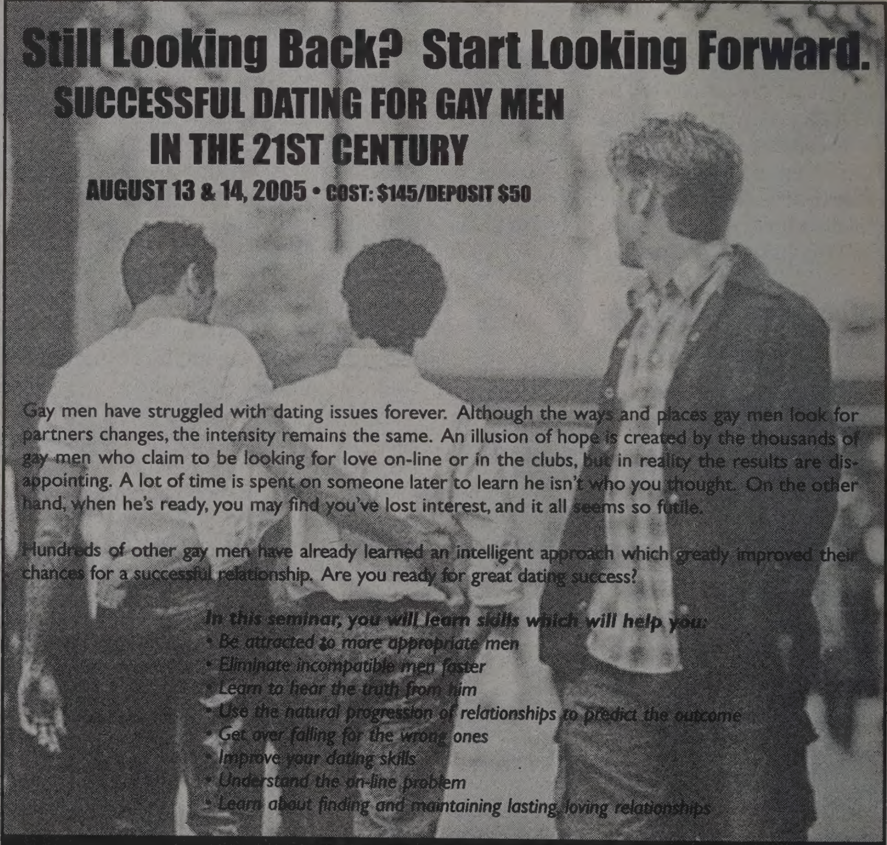

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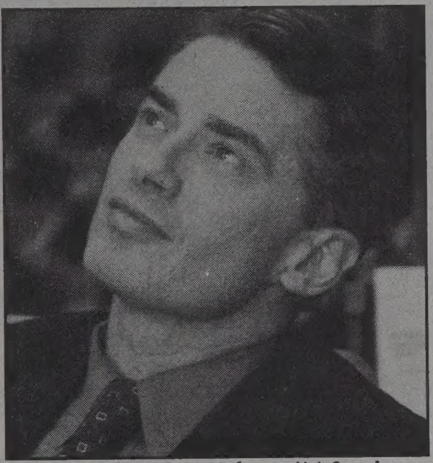
national news briefs

Gay former N.J. governor lives in self-imposed exile

RAHWAY, N.J. (AP) — A year after his life imploded in scandal, James E. McGreevey lives in self-imposed exile, avoiding the limelight he spent a lifetime chasing and trying to figure out what his next act will be. Separated from the wife he betrayed, McGreevey lives modestly, in a one-bedroom apartment, one town away from his old stomping ground in Woodbridge. It's a long way from the stately governor's mansion at Drumthwacket — and a long time since Aug. 12, 2004, the day New Jersey's 51st governor came clean with a soul-baring confession. With wife Dina Matos McGreevey at his side, his mother and father standing behind him, McGreevey confessed to an extramarital affair with a man and announced his resignation in a nationally televised speech. "My truth is that I am a gay American," he said. Since then, McGreevey, 47, has disappeared from public view. He has not gotten involved in gay advocacy, as some thought he might after coming out so publicly. "It would not be a natural fit for Gov. McGreevey to all of a sudden become a gay activist," said Steven Goldstein, chair of Garden State Equality, a gay political group. "The problem for him is that gay marriage is front and center in the gay rights movement and he's never recanted his opposition to it."



One year after coming out, former N.J. Gov. **James McGreevey** is still trying to build a new life. (Photo by Brian Branch-Price/AP)

Court rules that Calif. country club discriminated against lesbian couple

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — California's highest court ruled Monday that country clubs must offer gay members who register as domestic partners the same discounts given to married ones — a decision that could apply to other businesses such as insurance companies and mortgage lenders. The decision by the California Supreme Court dealt with a policy at the Bernardo Heights Country Club in San Diego that allowed only the children, grandchildren and spouses of married members to golf for free. Birgit Koebke, 48, an avid golfer who pays about $500 a month in membership fees, challenged the policy after being told that her longtime lesbian partner, Kendall French, could only play as a guest six times a year while paying up to $70 per round. The court ruled that the policy constitutes "impermissible marital status discrimination."

Spokane mayor asks state's high court to block recall effort

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — Mayor Jim West has asked the state Supreme Court to reject a recall effort seeking to remove him from office over a sex scandal. Lawyers for West argued last week that a Superior Court judge erred in allowing a recall proposal to go forward, and by rewriting the proposal after it was originally submitted by unemployed Spokane mother Shannon Sullivan, who is leading the recall effort. In producing the rewritten recall synopsis after a June 13 hearing on Sullivan's proposal, the lower court deprived West of the opportunity to challenge the rewrite, West's brief said. The lower court also erred in concluding a public official may be subject to a recall election for engaging in private online conversations and e-mails, the mayor's lawyers contended. The recall effort contends West, formerly a state Senate leader, misused his office and city equipment by offering City Hall jobs and perks to young men he was seeking to date through Web sites.

Top defense contractor offers trans protections

WALTHAM, Mass. — The world's largest missile maker, Raytheon Co., announced it is the first of the six top U.S. defense firms to offer equal opportunity employment protection to transgendered and transsexual workers, according to media reports. Adopted last week, the policy confirms equality in hiring, promotion and job assignment for people who have had sex-change operations or those who choose other forms of gender expression and identity, Hayward Bell, Raytheon's chief diversity officer, told media outlets. Existing company policy already included issues of sexual orientation. Out of its global work force of 80,000, Raytheon has at least 19 workers who will be covered under the new policy, Bell said. It becomes one of at least 72 companies in the Fortune 500 to specifically protect employees based on gender identity.

American Indian tribes face gay marriage debate

TULSA — Lesbian couple Kathy Reynolds and Dawn McKinley lived a quiet suburban life until Dawn was barred from Kathy's hospital room because she was not family, and the two now are at the center of an American Indian battle over gay marriage, the Washington Post reported. Reynolds, 28, and McKinley, 33, requested and received a marriage application from the Cherokee Nation, becoming the first gay couple to marry under Cherokee law. A hearing was set this week to determine whether the pair actually are married under Cherokee law and will be legally recognized as a married couple in conservative Oklahoma, the Post reported. According to tribal sovereignty statutes, Native American marriages must be recognized by states. Reynolds and McKinley said they did not set out to make history. "We just wanted recognition for our relationship," Reynolds told the Post.

From staff and wire reports

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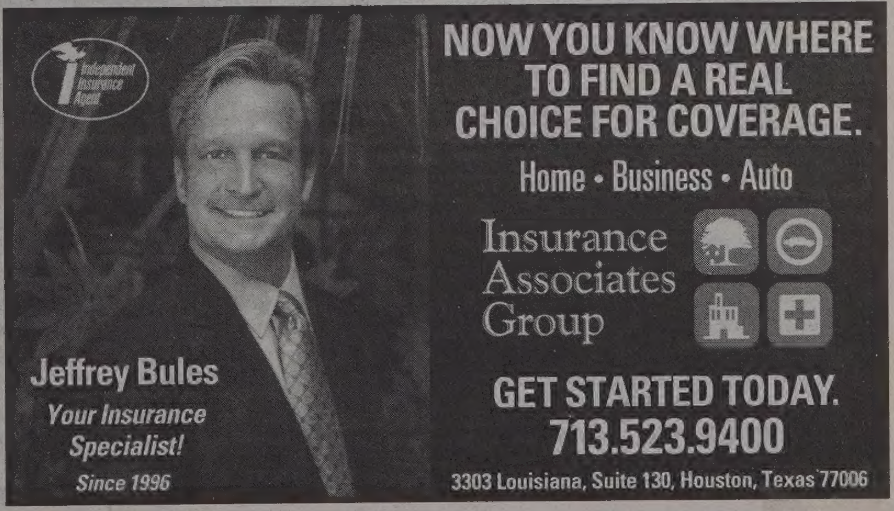

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Ryan White proposal would shift funds to South

AIDS groups fear changes will lead to reduced services

By ELIZABETH WEILL-GREENBERG

A revised proposal for funding the Ryan White CARE Act may shift some resources from densely populated metropolitan areas to Southern states, sources familiar with the plan said.

Many Southern AIDS activists have pleaded for more federal funding, claiming they can't meet the basic medical needs for the growing numbers of people infected with HIV and AIDS.

One clinic in Alabama postpones putting patients on anti-retroviral medications because officials fear running out of the costly drugs and interrupting treatment, said Kathie Hyers, CEO of AIDS Alabama and co-chair of the Southern AIDS Coalition.

"We're delaying treatment because of a lack of drugs," said Hyers. "People are dying in the South because they can't get medications."

Hyers said she supports many of the White House proposals for redistributing Ryan White funds.

"My bottom line is the money should follow the epidemic," she said.

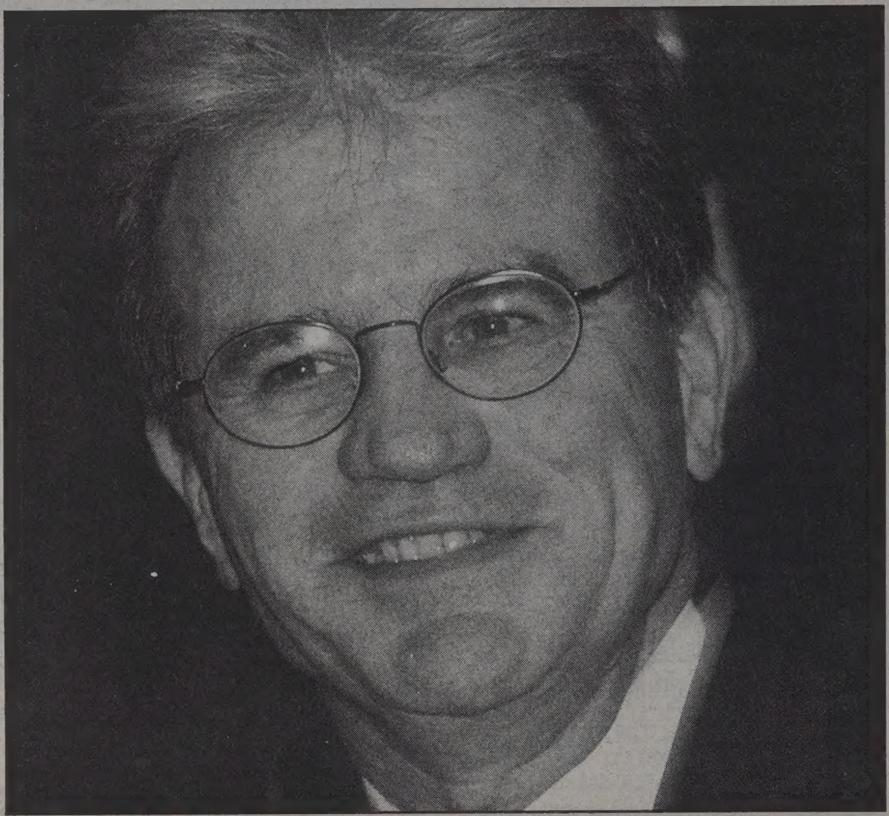
The Ryan White legislation funds primary care and support services for people living with HIV disease who have no other health care or the financial ability to pay for their care.

The White House proposes, among other initiatives, eliminating the "hold harmless provision" and so-called "double counting." In states with Eligible Metropolitan Areas (EMAs), people with AIDS are counted in the city count, and again for the state count. Both these provisions were intended to help the hardest hit areas create comprehensive systems of care and maintain funding without large fluctuations over the years.

The elimination of these provisions will potentially drain money from states with high incidence metropolitan areas, like California, New York, Illinois and Washington, D.C., and funnel it into areas of emerging need, including Southern states. Many advocates say that the hold harmless provision should be slowly reduced over the next five years.

The White House also advised that a national "set of core medical services" and a federal list of "core medications" for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) should be established. However, the proposal didn't specify which services or medications would be included or account for variables based on geographical differences, like varying needs for transportation and housing.

An AIDS activist who spoke on the condition of anonymity said that a group of AIDS activists met with Sen. Tom Coburn (R-Okla.) the day after the White House released its principles. The source did not say what was discussed, only that Coburn is expected to be a leader in the reauthorization process, which is now in the hands of Congress.



Sen. **Tom Coburn** (R-Okla.) is expected to be a leader in the reauthorization process for the Ryan White CARE Act, which is now in the hands of Congress.

Coburn is a conservative former chair of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS. He was criticized by gay rights activists during last year's Senate campaign after warning in a speech that "lesbianism is so rampant in some of the schools in the southeast Oklahoma that they'll only let one girl go to the bathroom."

While Hyers supports the president's plan, she said that no matter what the funding formulas, more money is needed. Southern states recently learned that the presidential initiative, which granted extra funds to states with ADAP waiting lists, was being discontinued. Under this short-lived program, Alabama received $4 million and was able to assist 400 people. The state ADAP program cannot absorb those numbers without additional funds, she said.

Hyers and advocates at AIDS Action, the HIV Medicine Association and the AIDS Institute applauded the White House's pledge to "serve the neediest first."

"We are pleased to see that [the administration] agreed with many of our own proposals by incorporating them into their principles," said Carl Schmid of the AIDS Institute in a statement.

But other organizations in urban centers said more money is needed. Despite 150,000 new AIDS cases, Ryan White has been flat-funded over the last five years, with only minor increases to the ADAP program, according to the National Association of People With AIDS (NAPWA).

Specific numbers were not included in the new White House proposal; it makes no mention of asking Congress to authorize additional funds. There are no details of how much funding would go to emerging areas of need or how many dollars could be taken from urban centers if the principles were adopted.

Shifting needs?

Some advocates in urban centers said the White House proposal will only move gaps in care from one area of the country to another.

"You can't meet the disparity by just reshuffling the deck — by moving the disparity to the inner city," said David Munar, associate director of the AIDS Foundation of Chicago and a board member of NAPWA.

Chicago and nine surrounding counties — 5,000 square miles — are classified as an EMA. Eighty percent of Illinois' HIV and AIDS cases are in Chicago, Munar explained.

Title I of the Ryan White CARE Act provides Chicago and the neighboring areas with about $23 million for AIDS-related community services. It receives an additional $3.1 million in Title II funding, Munar said.

Title I funding represents dollars designated for EMAs; Title II funds are granted to each state and territory. If the proposal goes through, that area will lose $3 million of its aid and the entire state would receive just 10 to 20 percent of its current grant, according to Munar.

This loss of funds will stretch a system that already can't match the need, Munar said.

"Our systems of care are just barely afloat," he said.

In Chicago, there are no openings for people with HIV who need substance abuse counseling — "those slots are gone," Munar added.

Like many metropolitan, gentrifying areas, Chicago lacks affordable housing, activists said. Throughout the entire EMA, there are only 30 long-term rental subsidies for people disabled by HIV and AIDS, Munar said. The Housing Choice Voucher program, formerly known as Section Eight, has at least an eight-year waiting list in Chicago and is not accepting new applicants, Munar said.

Illinois' strong public health safety net could actually hurt its funding, he pointed out. President Bush proposed a severity of need index to help determine funding. How the index will be calculated was not defined but Bush did say that one factor will be the availability of state and local resources. This could mean states that donate generously to their ADAP funds and have created strong public health safety nets, will, in effect, be punished and receive less federal funding.

"The least amount you invest in your people, the more CARE Act dollars you may get," Munar said, causing "states to race to the bottom."

EMAs in California, New York and Washington, D.C., stand to lose millions if the White House principles are adopted, some said. In California, where 90 percent of AIDS cases fall in nine EMAs, the state will lose $20 million under Bush's plan, said Ernest Hopkins, director of federal affairs for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

D.C. could lose significant amounts of its Ryan White award as well, Hopkins warned.

"We're very supportive of the Bush administration's overall commitment to providing HIV and AIDS care," said Roberta Geidner-Antonetti, interim executive director of the Whitman-Walker Clinic, the leading AIDS service organization in D.C.

However, she added, the "lack of definition to principles leaves us without a clear understanding what the total impact might be."

"Any reduction in funding to D.C., Maryland or Northern Virginia could just have a devastating effect," Geidner-Antonetti said, pointing out that D.C. has an AIDS infection rate 10 to 12 times higher than other metropolitan areas. "Our fear is it will result in dismantling the existing care delivery system."

Many advocates were also concerned by Bush's proposal that 75 percent of Ryan White funds must be spent on "core medical services," which, were not defined.

Core medical services include, according to the Institute of Medicine, case management, substance abuse, mental health, prevention services and outpatient care, explained Munar.

But that list doesn't include the services currently funded by Ryan White, like transportation, housing, legal services, food assistance and child care, which help people to stay in care, he said.

medical report

Super-HIV not as scary as was first reported

NEW YORK, N.Y. — In February it was front-page news, now it looks like the New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene overreacted to reports of a virulent new strain of HIV. Connecticut physician Gary Blick announced that a patient of his is the source of the HIV strain that officials announced earlier this year. "However, we want to emphasize that our patient is not rapidly progressing," Blick said at the Third International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Pathogenesis & Treatment in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. In mid-February, Commissioner Thomas Frieden held a news conference to announce there was the possibility of a new strain of HIV that was resistant the majority of drugs and progressed rapidly to AIDS. Called "three-class antiretroviral-resistant HIV," or 3-DCR HIV, this particularly virulent strain was discovered in an unnamed New York City man. In Blick's July 25 presentation, the doctor announced the strain of HIV in his patient and the New York resident were 99.5 percent identical. Don Bux, a research associate at the Center for Addiction & Substance Abuse at Columbia University, warned the case was not as atypical as the city claimed. "This is not the first time a drug resistant strain of HIV has been detected," Bux said. "It is also not the first time that an especially virulent form of HIV has been detected."

Dr. **Thomas Frieden** announced on Feb. 11news of a super-strain of HIV that had doctors concerned because of how fast it appeared to work. Doctors last week said local health officials may have overreacted. (File photo)

AIDS epidemic only getting started, United Nations says

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — With a record 5 million new cases of HIV last year and major new outbreaks in Central Asia and China, the epidemic's impact is only now becoming fully apparent, a top United Nations official said last week. "It's still an emerging epidemic. Just now we're getting into the globalization phase," Dr. Peter Piot, executive director of the United Nations Program of HIV/AIDS, told the Associated Press. Piot said the disease was also undergoing "feminism," transforming itself from a disease that once largely affected gay males into a disease that has infected a roughly equal number of women and men around the world. In southern Africa, about 60 percent of those infected are female. And while UNAIDS estimates the amount of money devoted to fighting the disease has increased 35 fold since 1996 to about $8 billion this year alone, there is little reason for optimism. Some 5,000 scientists, doctors, health professionals and public policy specialists from around the world documented only incremental progress in the fight against AIDS.

Thailand offers anti-retroviral drugs to all for almost no cost

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Thailand announced it will offer anti-retroviral drugs at almost no cost to the nation's 500,000 people with the AIDS virus. "We will be the first country in the world to give every person living with AIDS access to anti-retroviral drugs," said a statement from the Ministry of Public Health. The Thai-produced drugs — which slow the spread of HIV — will be added to a government health care initiative that provides basic care to all Thais for only 72 cents per hospital visit, including services, tests and medications.

San Francisco officials report large drop in HIV cases

SAN FRANCISCO — Three new studies suggest that the spread of HIV among this city's gay residents has significantly slowed, the San Francisco Chronicle reported. City health officials are contemplating scaling back their estimates of the number of new HIV infections each year. Since 2001, health leaders in the city have estimated that more than 1,000 residents are newly infected each year with the virus that causes AIDS. A federal study last month, however, found new infections among gay men in San Francisco are occurring at about half the rate on record from 2001, according to the Chronicle. "This one [CDC] study has been quite an eye opener for us," Dr. Willi McFarland, epidemiologist for the San Francisco Department of Public Health's Office of AIDS, told the newspaper. Prompted by the CDC figures, health officials analyzed other sets of data and found the same trend in two of them.

British study confirms drug cocktails reduce AIDS rates

LONDON — According to British researchers, cocktails of anti-AIDS drugs cut by 86 percent the rate of progression from HIV to full-blown AIDS compared to patients who receive no treatment, Reuters reported. In combination with at least three treatments from two drug classes, the effectiveness of highly active anti-retroviral therapy or HAART increases over time, the scientists said. But Dr. Jonathan Sterne of the University of Bristol in southwestern England, who headed the research team, said HAART therapy is not as beneficial for patients who may have been infected through intravenous drug use.

From staff and wire reports

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national news

Documents may hint at stance

ROBERTS, continued from **Page 1**

come before the Supreme Court in the next several years.

If confirmed by the Senate in the fall, a gay-related military case would be one of the first cases Roberts is likely to consider as a new Supreme Court justice. The case, Fair vs. Rumsfeld, came to the high court when the Bush administration appealed a ruling last year by the Third Circuit Court of Appeals overturning the Solomon Amendment, a federal law calling for cutting off federal funds to universities that deny military recruiters access to campus facilities.

In the 1990s, a number of the nation's elite universities barred military recruiters from their campuses on grounds that their presence would violate university policies of shunning employers that engage in discrimination, including sexual orientation discrimination.

The universities cited the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy of prohibiting gays from serving in the military unless they conceal their sexual orientation as the reason for their bans on military recruiters.

The universities backed down from this practice following Congress' approval of the Solomon Amendment, out of fear that they would lose millions of dollars in federal funds. A consortium of universities challenged the constitutionality of the Solomon Amendment in a joint lawsuit in federal court. The Third Circuit's decision to overturn the law is considered an important victory for gay activists, who hope to eventually overturn the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy through litigation.

Challenges to "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" are among the next set of gay-related cases that could come before the Supreme Court in the near future. At least two lawsuits seeking to overturn the policy are pending, one filed by the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network in the First Circuit Court of Appeals and another by the national gay group Log Cabin Republicans in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. The Ninth Circuit has already rejected a previous challenge to the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy.

If the appeals courts overturn the policy, the Bush administration is expected to file an immediate appeal to the Supreme Court.

Roberts to enforce 'settled law'

Some activists predict a challenge to one or more state laws banning gay marriage could also find its way to the Supreme Court's docket. A suit challenging the federal Defense of Marriage Act, which denies federal benefits to married same-sex couples, could also come before the high court, gay rights attorneys have said.

Roberts was in his 20s at the time he expressed his critical views on constitutional privacy rights. He was an assistant to French Smith in the early years of the Reagan administration.

Some legal observers have questioned whether Roberts' views have since moderated, more than 20 years later. In recent years, in his role as a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, Roberts has said he would respect and enforce "settled law," including the 1973 decision of Roe vs. Wade, which legalized abortion.

Legal experts point out that the court used Roe and other privacy rights cases as a foundation for the Lawrence decision in 2003. Lawrence is considered one of the most important decisions in favor of gay civil rights. Written by Justice Anthony Kennedy and approved by a 6-3 margin, it recognizes that gay people have a fundamental right to privacy that can't be denied by the government.

Gay rights attorneys have expressed concern that a decision by the high court to overturn Roe could lead to the eventual overturning of Lawrence.

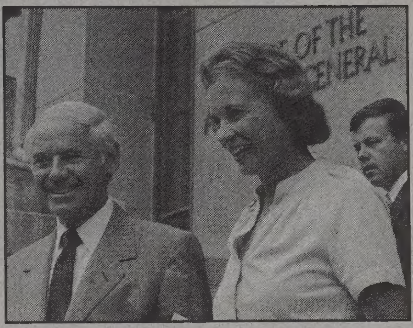
Chai Feldblum, a Georgetown University Law School professor and gay rights attorney, said the emerging documents on Roberts' work in the Reagan administration, and the administration of President George H.W. Bush, shed light on a judicial philosophy he is likely to apply to issues expected to come before the court in the future.

"What we see from the memos he wrote is his vision that the privacy provision in the Constitution should be limited," said Feldblum. "He doesn't strike me as someone who will have an expansive vision on privacy rights."

"What is not clear is how this will play out in gay rights cases," Feldblum said. "If he is conservative in not wanting to upset the existing applecart, he may not want to overturn Lawrence. But how he would apply Lawrence to something else — that is an unknown."

Feldblum said the information that has emerged so far on Roberts' record and views should no longer be dismissed as "tea leaves" that can't be predictive of his current views.

"They represent his vision of the Constitution that I doubt would change over time," she said. "They are core beliefs. He clearly believes these privacy rights guarantees should be given a narrow scope."



Newly released documents show that Supreme Court nominee John Roberts drafted an article for then Attorney General **William French Smith** — pictured here with **Sandra Day O'Connor** — in 1981, which revealed Roberts' skepticism of the Constitution's 'right to privacy' doctrine. (Photo by Dennis Cook/AP)

Helping gay youth find self-esteem and empowerment

From helping gay youth to promoting gay films, Deb Murphy's life is full

By **DAWN RORIE**

Deb Murphy may be one of the first to lament that for gay youth, life is hard. During her time as a high school history and science teacher, she witnessed the experiences of her gay students firsthand.

Verbal and physical violence were a constant reality to any teen perceived as being gay.

Sex education and positive information regarding homosexuality were both lacking. Instead, most public schools featured abstinence-only sex education programs. If homosexuality was mentioned at all, Murphy says, it was only discussed in reference to the spread of disease.

Discrimination in the school systems was a factor "every day, all day," says Murphy. "Not just from the kids—from the faculty and staff, as well."

The experience helped Murphy realize two things. First, she had a passion for working with young people, and secondly, gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender youth needed guidance, support, and somewhere to turn.

It was inevitable that Murphy would find H.A.T.C.H. Started in 1987, the nonprofit organization provides a safe social environment, peer support and educational programs for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth between the ages of thirteen and twenty.

Confidential, drop-in meetings, supervised by screened and trained adult volunteers, allow youths to have fun, socialize, and take part in educational programs that focus on building self-esteem, empowerment, and providing important health information.

Program topics include information about safer sex, the dangers of drug use, and staying safe at school and when out and about in the community.

Murphy, who was doing freelance writing at the time, was asked to write an article on H.A.T.C.H. After researching the group, she was "entranced."

"I immediately asked the executive director for a job," Murphy remembers. "I was further impressed by the fact that the hiring committee had two youths on it. I said to myself, 'What a great idea!' The youth are empowered."

MORE INFO

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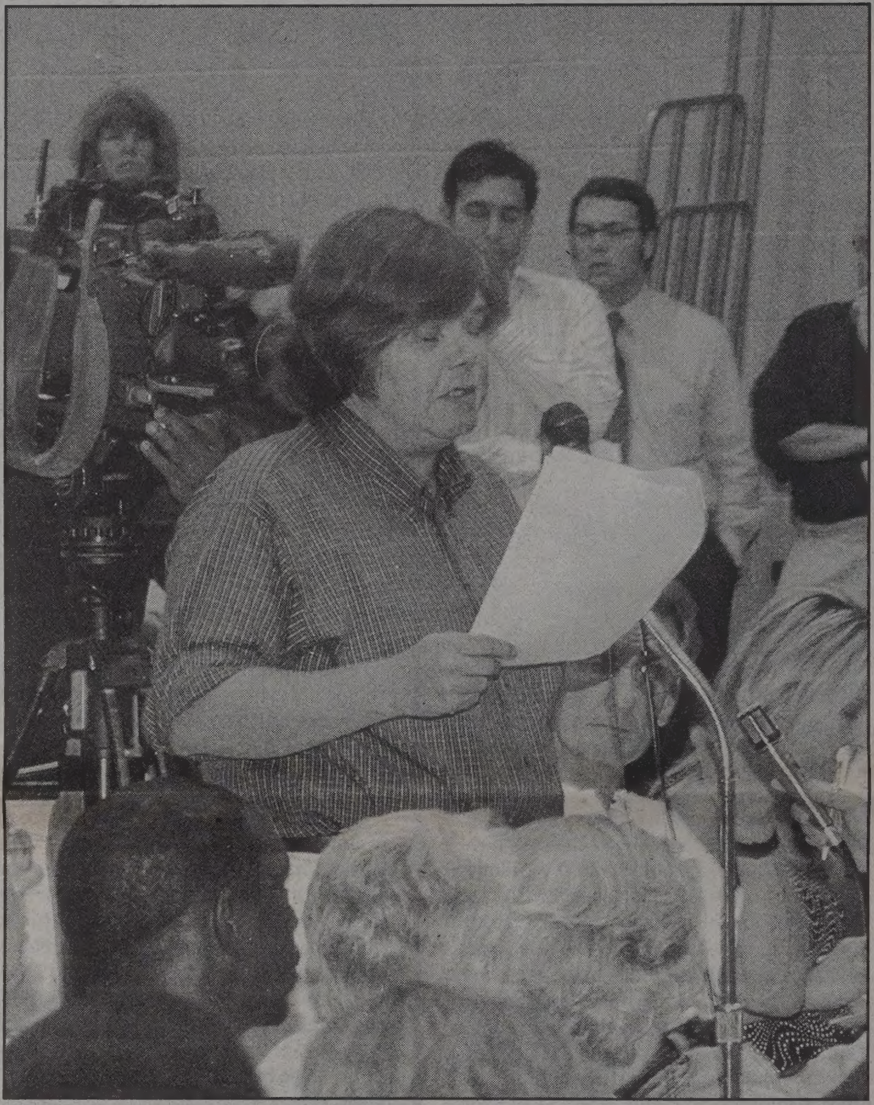


Deb Murphy, Youth Services Worker for H.A.T.C.H., spoke about the plight of gay youth during a recent townhall meeting to discuss homeless teens in Montrose. (Photo by Dalton DeHart)

Shortly after Murphy became the Youth Services Worker for H.A.T.C.H., the organization became a project of the Montrose Counseling Center. Since then, Murphy says, "great things have happened." The number and variety of programs that H.A.T.C.H. provides has increased.

Among the new areas where H.A.T.C.H. has been able to focus is the public school system. Working with the nonprofit organization ,Communities in Schools, H.A.T.C.H. has been able to organize regular meetings at various area H.I.S.D. schools, during school time.

Another program, "Satellite H.A.T.C.H.," seeks to provide meetings to sexual minority youth in the outlying areas around Houston.

For youth who attend H.A.T.C.H. and inevitably age out of the program, the Youth Development Project provides opportunities with organizations such as the Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce and the Human Rights Campaign. While the organizations get the benefit of the young people's energy and enthusiasm, the youth are mentored and taught valuable skills.

Success is well documented

The benefits of H.A.T.C.H. are numerous and well documented. According to Murphy, outcome measure surveys taken twice a year have yielded encouraging results. The longer youths continue to participate in H.A.T.C.H., the less likely they are to drop out of school, do drugs, or engage in unsafe sexual activity.

Murphy emphasizes that the purpose of H.A.T.C.H., in addition to education, is to provide an atmosphere in which sexual minority youth can relax and have a good time in a safe environment.

In addition to a social hour at the beginning of every meeting, H.A.T.C.H. schedules movie nights and builds a float each year for Houston's GLBT Pride Parade.

DEB MURPHY

Age: 50
Occupation: Youth services worker, Film Festival administrator; technical writer
Education: B.S. degree in chemistry from Florida Atlantic University; completed management program at Rice University
Pets: None
Hobbies: Restoration of historic home in Galveston ("It's just something I've always wanted to do.")
Relationship Status: Single

Thinking about this year's parade, Murphy pauses to praise H.A.T.C.H. adult volunteers. This year, members of the Dallas chapter of Youth First joined the H.A.T.C.H. youth to march in the Houston Pride Parade.

"Imagine shepherding one hundred excited kids down Westheimer," Murphy laughs. "We have such great volunteers—the best volunteers I've ever worked with. They are really amazing men and women."

In addition to her work with H.A.T.C.H., Murphy also serves as Youth Services Worker for the Methamphetamine Addiction Prevention Program (M.A.P.P.), a project of the Center for Success and Independence.

Murphy is concerned about the growing use of meth in the gay community. Although the drug used to be popular in rural areas and among various fringe groups, meth has become a widely used gay party drug.

"Methamphetamine should rightly be called gay crack. It reaps the same results as crack. Your whole life becomes the drug, and you don't have a life anymore. Meth is destroying a generation," she says.

Young outreach workers with M.A.P.P. spend time at Houston-area nightclubs, talking to other young people and passing out colorful pamphlets that discuss the dangers of the drug in honest, everyday language.

In the midst of a schedule already filled to the brim with H.A.T.C.H. and M.A.P.P., Murphy serves as Festival Administrator for the Houston Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. As with her other jobs, she insists that there is no "best part" of her job with the Film Festival.

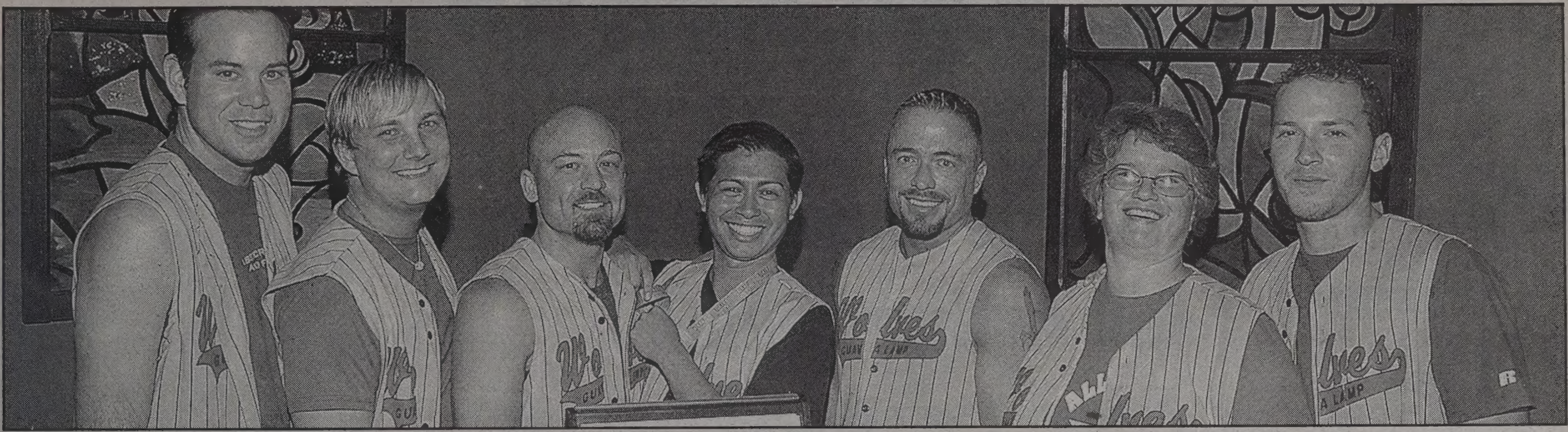
"I enjoy the entire job. I love, love, love queer film," she says.

In her downtime, Murphy is passionate about restoring the 1900 storm-survivor house in which she resides in Galveston. She started on the project five years ago, and is doing the majority of the work herself.

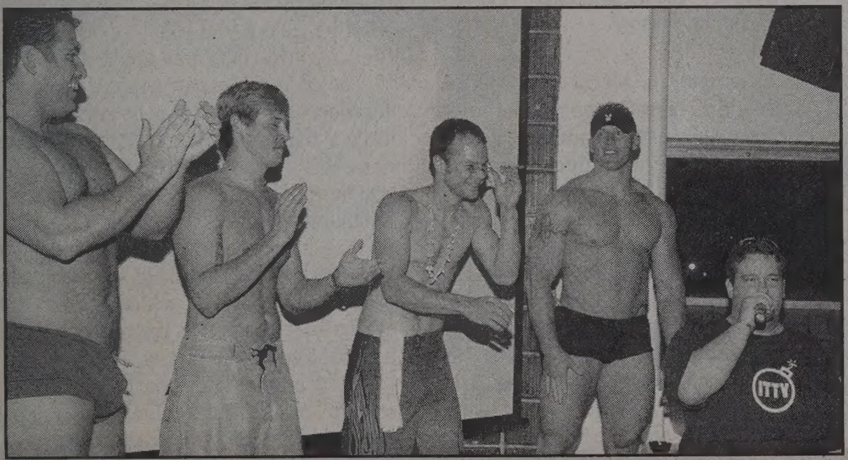
At work and at play, Murphy is happy. Her philosophy is simple: find what you love and do it. "If you like everything that you do, it doesn't seem like work," she says, smiling.

out in houston

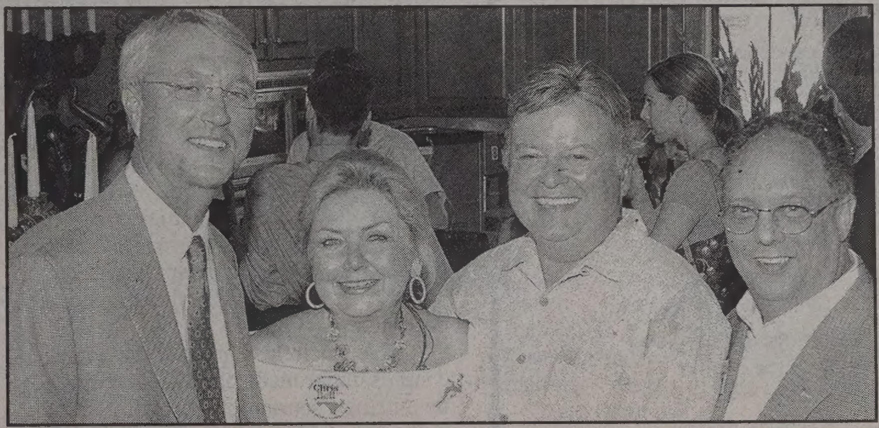
(Photos by Dalton DeHart)



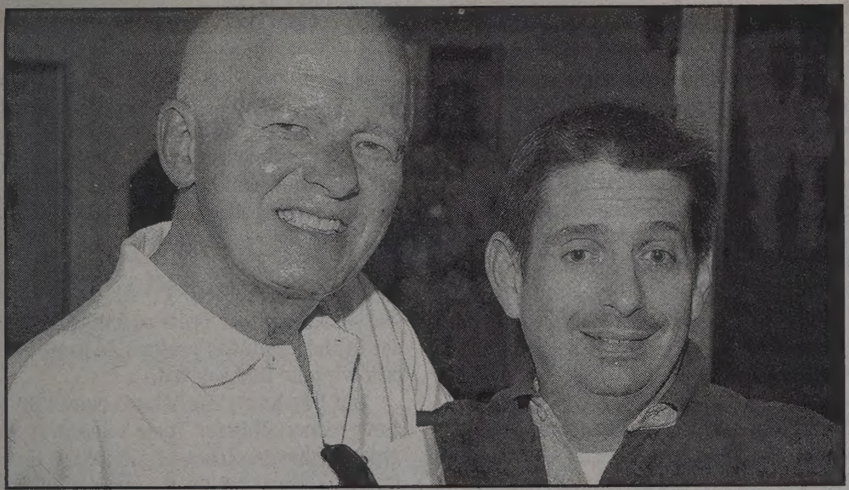
Members of Montrose Softball League's Wolves gathered recently at Guava Lamp for their sendoff to the softball World Series in San Diego.



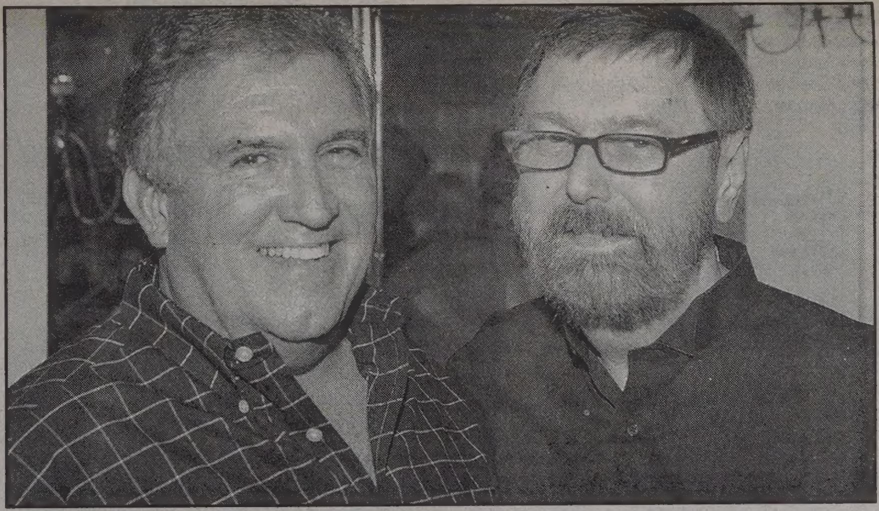
Boys showed their stuff at Rich's Beach, Boys and Balls evening recently.



Just before announcing his candidacy for Texas governor, Democrat **Chris Bell** (left) talked with (from left) **Sharon** and **George Jacobs** and **Gerry Birnbaum**.



Gary Evans (left) and **Sean Hawkins** were among the participants in the recent Diana Foundation Summer Sizzler.



Richard Watson and Diana Foundation President **Bob Briddick**, at the Summer Sizzler.

Participants in the recent Denim Party at Brazos River Bottom came clad in, well, denim.

Forum

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editorial

Did the Miami New Times kill Arthur Teele?

The **suicide** of a former Miami public official has again sparked debate on the question of outing.

By **MUBARAK DAHIR**

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO know what dark thoughts filled the mind of former Miami Commissioner Arthur Teele as he walked into the lobby of the Miami Herald shortly after 6 p.m. on Wednesday, July 27.

That's when the controversial former commissioner made national headlines by putting a semiautomatic pistol to the right side of his head, waiting for police to arrive, and pulling the trigger.

It was also the same day that the Miami New Times, a weekly alternative paper, published a detailed news report titled, "Tales of Teele: Sleaze Stories."

In that story, Arthur Teele was outed.

THE VOLUMINOUS ARTICLE DETAILED allegations of corruption, drug use and paying prostitutes for sex.

Included in the story were accounts, as given to police, of a male transvestite prostitute who said he had numerous encounters with Teele, in which Teele paid him for sex.

His accounts were sexually graphic, including details of times when he says he was anally penetrated by Teele, and when he says Teele was anally penetrated by him.

In no uncertain terms, the paper outed Teele as engaging in homosexual behavior.

OF COURSE, THE STORY ALSO recounted allegations of fraud and corruption. But these were nothing new to Teele.

Indeed, in the past year, he had been mired in both federal and state corruption charges. Teele's most serious legal problems stemmed from more than two dozen legal counts against him and an electrical contractor, in which Teele was charged with lying to get more than $20 million in contracts at the Miami International Airport earmarked to go to minority businesses.

In fact, the former commissioner had been charged with criminal offenses three times in the past year, mostly around allegations of fraud and money laundering. In March, the beleaguered former politician was also convicted in state court of threatening a police officer in yet another corruption investigation. All this was spelled out in the Miami New Times article.

The newspaper also recounted episodes of alleged illegal drug use by Teele.

But the most salacious, headline-grabbing portion of the story was clearly the revelation of Teele's sexual escapades.

It seems hard to believe that it was a mere coincidence that Teele shot himself in the head the same day the newspaper's account of his same-sex romps hit the streets.

The whole ugly episode has once again sparked a national debate on the ethics of outing.

THE QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT a person's sexual orientation and sexual behavior is fair game for public reporting is a question with a long history of debate.

Most "mainstream" publications continue to refuse to report whether or not someone is gay or bisexual against a person's will. This rule is surprisingly adhered to, even when hypocrisy is the issue beyond sexual orientation.

For example, gay or lesbian politicians who themselves promote anti-gay agendas, or who work to defeat gay-supportive bills, are routinely given a free pass by the "mainstream" press. It is unfathomable that a politician who, for example, crusades against abortion rights would not be confronted by the media if a reporter found out the politician's wife or daughter secretly had an abortion.

In the modern world of ultra-scrutiny of public figures, particularly of politicians and celebrities, almost nothing seems out of bounds when it comes to divulging the juiciest details of a person's private life or past: Legal woes, emotional outbursts, sex scandals, drug use, financial problems, personality flaws, even medical conditions. In this day and age, reporters at "mainstream" publications don't shy away from digging into the most personal of facts.

Except when it comes to the gay thing.

In the mainstream media, there is still almost universal avoidance of tackling the gay and lesbian question.

PART OF THAT RESISTANCE MAY BE in the history of outing itself. Traditionally, outing was used by anti-gay people as a means to ruin a gay person's life. The revelation that someone was homosexual was so horrible, it meant their demise.

Today, representatives of the "mainstream" media most frequently say they do not ask whether or not someone is gay because it is "personal." Another often-repeated line is that sexual orientation is "irrelevant."

Both excuses are malarkey.

In this day and age, where public figures rightly or wrongly are put under a microscope, it's difficult to imagine anything being too personal. You can debate whether or not you like that standard; but the standard should be applied evenly.

The claim that a gay person's sexual orientation is irrelevant may be even more of a farce. When examining the life of a politician or celebrity or newsmaker of any kind, there will be all kinds of influences on his or her life that work to shape who that person has become. For most gay and lesbian people, our sexual orientation is part of the critical core of our identity, and it permeates every aspect of our lives. To deny its relevance in shaping a public figure is, in fact, an insult.

Many editors and reporters at "mainstream" publications believe they are being pro-gay when they fail to ask about or investigate someone's sexual orientation. Many actually believe they are somehow helping to "protect" the person in question.

But this unparalleled refusal to inquire about whether or not a public figure is gay doesn't help gay and lesbian people. Indeed, it harms us tremendously.

And this is why: By refusing to simply ask whether or not someone is gay perpetuates the notion that answering affirmatively is the ultimate shame.

I DO NOT PRETEND TO KNOW WHAT possessed Arthur Teele to feel that a bullet in the head was preferable to people knowing he had sex with a man.

But I do know the Miami New Times isn't responsible for Teele's death. If anything, the conspiracy of silence in the "mainstream" media around sexual orientation is far more of a culprit when it comes to contributing to an atmosphere of shame and fear around sexual identity.

Of course, private citizens shouldn't be outed without good reason. When to come out remains a personal and private decision for each person to make in his or her own time.

But for people in the public eye, we can't have one set of rules for straight people, and another set for gay people.

There's no shame in asking if someone is gay. Indeed, it's a disgrace not to.

@ **Mubarak Dahir** is editor of the Express Gay News and can be reached at **mdahir@expressgaynews.com**

letters

On the marriage amendment front

To the Editors,

RE: "The Q" (July 29)

The July 29, 2005 Houston Voice asked five individuals what they were willing to do to campaign for full equality in face of the marriage amendment in November. One said he would "petition and call state legislators." All that happened last spring; it's too late for that now. The amendment is on the ballot; it's up to the GLBT community and its allies to reach out to the voters.

So what can be done?

PERSON TO PERSON contact is the most effective tool.

Participate in HERA (Houston Equal Rights Alliance)'s voter identification projects: www.houstonera.org

Check the www.NoNonsenseinNovember.com Web site for how you can be helpful.

Participate in the Houston GLBT Political Caucus, 713-521-1000, www.hglbtc.org. Join their Community Work Day Saturday, August 13, "Learn About Opportunities to Fight the Upcoming Anti-Gay Constitutional Amendment."

Pass out, accompanied by a brief conversation, "Leave No Family Behind" cards, sponsored by PFLAG Houston. Check the PFLAG Web site for details such as what the fliers look like, how and where to get them, how to make them, and suggested conversations: www.pflag-houston.org

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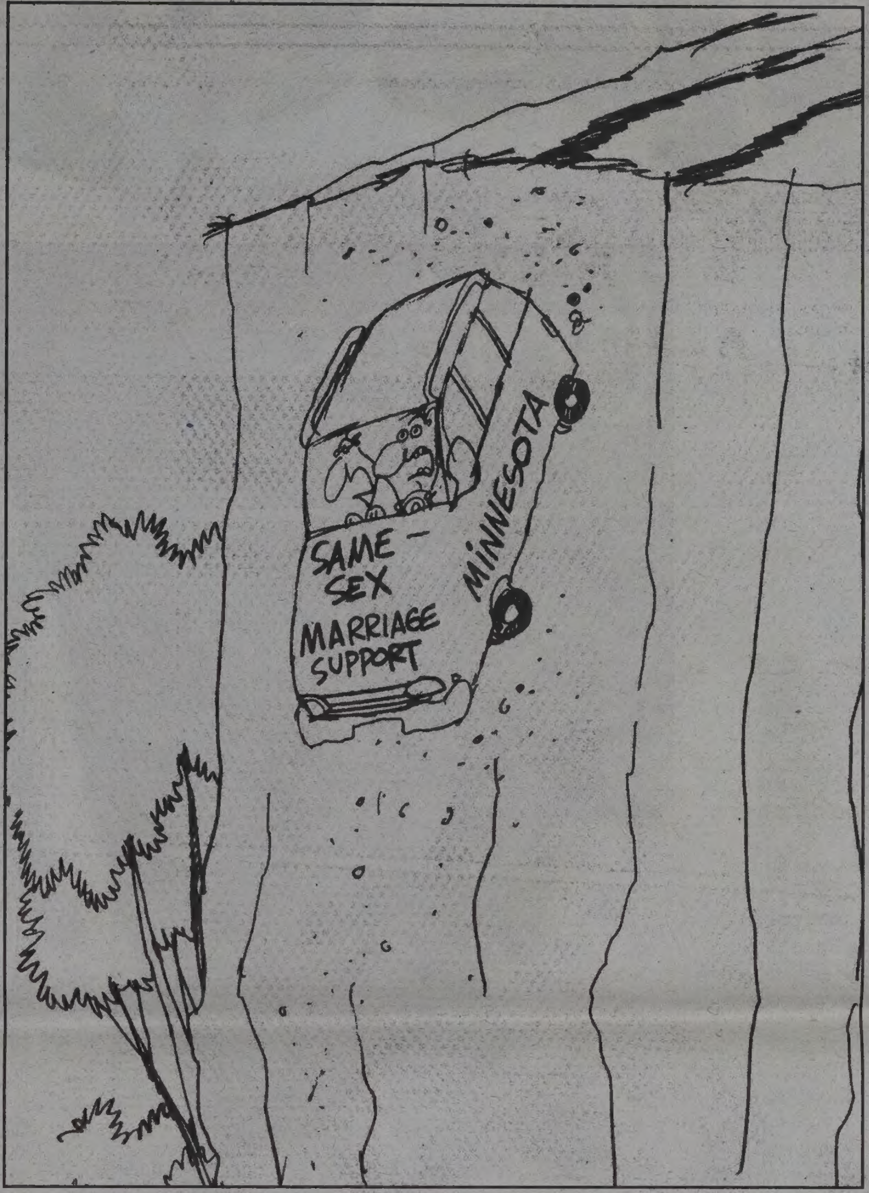
Advocacy Chair
PFLAG
Houston



Don't fall for Stella's story

To the Editors:

Re "Losing her groove" (Dish, July 1):

Kudos to you for noting the larger and more critical issues at stake in my cousin, Jonathan Plummer's, nasty split from Terry McMillan.

It's very difficult to see two people I care about have their lives on display this way. However, I must say my loyalty is with Jonathan. He has had a hell of a journey "out" from rural Jamaica to Hollywood.

I hope one day, when the dust settles, he will tell his own story. He is one of the most courageous and resilient people I know, and he has faced quite serious repercussions for discovering who he is and coming out.

He is married to a masterful storyteller, and her allegations of fraud and embezzlement are just her doing what she does best.

MARK PLUMMER
San Francisco

Freedom for gays and ex-gays alike

To the Editors:

Re: "Lock up the 'ex-gays'" (editorial by Kevin Naff, June 24):

The only way to truly understand the experience of ex-gay individuals is through the broader lens of compassion and objectivity, which Kevin Naff seems to sorely lack.

Throughout human history, men and women have changed from one sexual orientation to another. The process of coming out as gay involves choice and change. Most, if not all, gay and lesbian individuals begin teen years or adulthood labeled by society as heterosexual. At some point they announce to friends and family that from now on, they want to be known as gay.

The choice to come out as gay is no different from the choice ex-gays make to walk away from the homosexual lifestyle. That is a choice they are free to make in a free country.

Naff obviously can't consider a worldview so at odds with his own, perhaps because it threatens his deeply ingrained sense of himself as being gay from birth; but ignoring an error doesn't make the error disappear.

Thank God we live in a country where gays are free to express their identity and to live that lifestyle in relative comfort and security. But by the same reasoning, ex-gays have the right to choose a different path, and no amount of idle threats of litigation or "lock-up" by radical gay hatemongers can take that right away.

CARL DAVID BIRMAN
Harrison, N.Y.

THE Q

If you could have a one-night stand with any celebrity, who would you choose and why?

Barbra Streisand because she has always been my 'Funny Girl.'

DONNA JUNKER, 51
Houston
Administrative assistant

Sean Connery. Always wanted.

VASCO ROSANIA, 42
Houston
Looking

If I were a straight man, I would say Condoleezza Rice. There is just something hot about a woman with all that power. Because I'm gay, then Russell Crowe because I want to see first-hand if it's true...

SCOTT SCOGGINS, 36
Houston
Owner Crossover Gifts and realtor

Michael Meyers, the Halloween psycho, not the comedian. Why, you ask? I love a good scream in the bedroom.

JOSE LARA, 28
Houston
Human resources associate analyst

Tom Cruise. Hot, hot, hot!

GARY EVANS 63
Houston
Pharmacist

Sound off about what's happening in your world at www.houstonvoice.com/soundoff.

Interviews and photos by Dalton DeHart

eclipse
GAY HOUSTON NIGHTLIFE, ARTS & CULTURE
www.houstonvoice.com
AUGUST 5, 2005

Boys toys

Rumblings about romance on the 'Dukes' set says the action is man-on-man. **Page 18**

here come the brides

GAY WEDDING BOOM TAKES OFF TO NEWLY LEGAL LOCALES

By **DYANA BAGBY**

WHEN REBECCA AND JEN STAPEL-WAX exchanged wedding vows eight years ago, same-sex marriage was just beginning to pop up on the political and cultural radar screens.

The couple, both 35 and now with two young boys, traveled from their current home in Georgia to their home state of Massachusetts to be married in Jen's parent's backyard on June 29, 1997. That was eight years before that blue state became the only one in the union to recognize marriage equality.

Their wedding was not only a pronouncement of their love to each other, but also a statement to family and friends that their relationship deserves first-class status, the women say.

"We had 130 folks there and not all were supportive, even on the day of the wedding," acknowledges Rebecca, executive director of a gay Jewish resource and support center.

The couple's wedding ceremony was conducted as an interfaith service, but Jen, a pediatric psychologist, later converted to Judaism.

"But most important to us was having our immediate family," Rebecca says. "It was a turning point for us. We had been together already five years and felt like we were married already, but this solidified things. We showed the world we were committed to each other."

Four years later, on Dec. 21, 2001, the couple renewed their vows in Vermont after that state legalized civil unions. Today, gay couples can legally marry in Massachusetts, and the Stapel-Wax's said they plan to return one day soon to get a legal marriage certificate.

MORE THAN TWO YEARS AGO, GAY COUPLES IN the U.S. also started traveling to Canada to get married in provinces where it was legal. Same-sex marriage became legal throughout the country earlier this month.

On June 30, Spain approved marriage for gay couples and added itself to the Netherlands and Belgium as countries where gay unions are legal. The United Church of Christ sanctioned gay unions on July 4.

With the slow upturn in acceptance in spots around the globe, business is booming for people that plan weddings with gay couples in mind, and Americans appear to top the list of interested customers.

"Ninety-five percent of our business is from the United States," says Taylore Darnel, co-owner of Belles & Balls Extraordinary Wedding & Events in Vancouver, British Columbia.

So far this year, Darnel helped plan 17 same-sex weddings, and her company averages two to three weddings a month, she said. People come from all over the U.S. to get married in Canada, and Darnel also planned weddings for gay couples from Australia, the United Kingdom and Malaysia.

Because of its close proximity, many gay couples travel to Canada for their legal marriage, but the benefits typically are not valid in the United States. Darnel says her clients often use their wedding certificate as a tool with progressive employers, for example, to gain domestic partner benefits.

Cindy Sproul, a lesbian and co-founder of the Asheville, N.C.-based Rainbow Wedding Network, produces gay and lesbian wedding expos throughout the nation. Sproul says it's increasingly common for gay couples to travel away from home to get married legally. Her business is planning to tap into the European market soon to take advantage of the steps being taken there.

But despite the lack of legality "the majority of weddings we see are staying in the U.S.," Sproul says. Her Web site registers about 40 gay couples a week and has helped plan nearly 5,000 weddings, including some in Canada, she says.

IN THE WEDDINGS SPROUL HELPED PLAN, MORE than $7 million was spent with vendors advertising on her Web site. The overall U.S. wedding industry is worth about $70 billion a year, and Forbes magazine estimated in 2004 that if same-sex marriages were legal-

Please see **MARRIAGE** on **Page 19**

FOOTBALLERS WIVE$: The newest offering from the BBC is so trashy, so campy and so fabulous. **Page 14**

'THE PHOENIX': A 'cookie-baking Midwestern grandma' has written about a love affair between two men. **Page 15**

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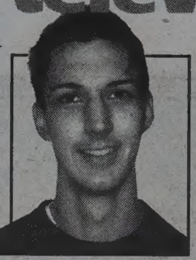
television BRIAN MOYLAN



Leave it to the BBC to air **'Footballers Wive$,'** a show so trashy, campy, fabulous and addictive it made the leap to America.

'Footballers' scores

EVIL TONYA TURNER MIGHT BE able to beat bitchy Alexis Carrington in a catfight.

For all of you who say, "There is no way that anyone could top Joan Collins' diva-licious antics on 'Dynasty,'" you haven't seen "Footballers Wive$." It's in the midst of its first season, on Sunday nights at 9 p.m., on BBC America.

Tonya (Zöe Lucker) is a disgustingly rich, chain-smoking, coke-snorting, manipulative, crazy woman. Boy, is she fabulous.

Her relationship with philandering footballer (or, as we say here in the colonies, "soccer player") husband, Jason (Cristian Solimeno), is so astonishingly dysfunctional that it's a pleasure to watch.

Jason plays for the Earls Park Sparks, a fictional soccer team, along with kind Ian (Nathan Constance), sexy-but-naive Kyle (Gary Lucy), and Italian superstar Sal (Daniel Schutzmann).

We never see them in a match, rarely seem them on the field, but often see the team in the locker room and showers.

Maybe we never see them play because it's clear that the women are in charge. Ian has Donna (Katherine Monaghan), who frets over their long-lost son.

Kyle is married to Chardonnay (Susie Amy), a former topless model who is annoyed by her husband's meddling mother, Jackie (Gillian Taylforth).

And let's not forget Donna's slutty sister Marie (Micaiah Dring), who makes her rounds on the team.

Then, there is the amazing Tanya, who bludgeoned the team's owner in the first episode after he threatened to bench her husband. He's now in a coma and she's been waiting by his bedside, trying to devise a way to off him for good. She's like Lady Macbeth on crack.

There aren't any gay characters on the show yet, but look for lesbian sports agent Hazel Bailey (Alison Newman) to join the cast near the end of the season.

A HUGE HIT ON BRITIAN'S ITV, WHERE it just finished its fourth season, BBC America seems to have scheduled "Wive$" to capitalize on the success of ABC's "Desperate Housewives," which airs on ABC in the same time slot.

While they're both prime-time soap operas, they couldn't be more different. "Housewives," from gay creator Marc Cherry, looks at the genre with a winking eye, using a hefty amount of irony, slapstick and dark humor to make a light, but suspenseful, confection.

It's all glamour and scandal for the 'Footballers Wive$' — Jackie (**Gillian Taylforth**, seated), Chardonnay (**Susie May**) and evil Tanya (**Zöe Lucker**) — who lord over BBC America on Sunday nights. (Photo courtesy of Shed Productions)

"Wive$" has no intention of being subtle or silly. This is balls-to-the-wall nighttime drama. It mixes over-the-top characters in opulent clothes and mansions a lá "Dynasty" and "Dallas" with the fast-paced, outlandish plots of "Melrose Place."

The stories are insane. You will find yourself saying, "Oh no, she didn't," at least once an episode.

Because of this signature outrageousness, "Wive$" tends to be a little campy (one of the characters has an actual fairy tale wedding), but it never goes for laughs.

The Aug. 7 program marks the midway point of the first season's eight episodes. But because the plot moves so quickly, you can easily tune in late. For those who don't want to miss a second, however, the first season is already available on DVD.

BBC America plans to roll out the next season in October. Just don't go poking around the Internet, because it's easy to find synopses of plots for the programs that already aired in the UK.

When dealing with something as fun as "Footballers Wive$" it would be terrible to ruin the surprises.

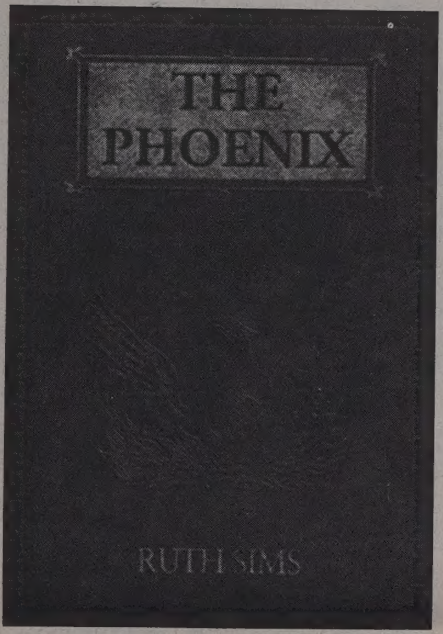
MORE INFO

'Footballers Wive$'
BBC America
Sundays at 8 p.m.

books KEN SAIN

Despite the prevalence of one-dimensional characters, **'The Phoenix,'** a historical novel about two gay men, entertains and enthralls.

Victorian love affair



THE FIRST NOVEL BY RUTH SIMS, A self-proclaimed "cookie-baking mid-Western grandma," is a love story set in Victorian times, in England and the United States.

"The Phoenix" tells the story of famous actor Kit St. Denys and the love of his life, Nick Stuart. Despite the flaws you might expect from a first-time novelist, the book, published by the Writers' Collective in Cranston, R.I., is entertaining.

The story focuses on the two men's love affair, which is constantly placed on hold by events outside their control.

Kit St. Denys is a famous and very rich actor who was born a pauper named Jack Rourke. We meet him when he's 14 and trying to take care of his somewhat fragile twin brother Michael, despite an indifferent mother and an abusive father.

When Michael dies from abuse and neglect, and after an angry confrontation with his alcoholic father, Jack runs away and is eventually adopted by a rich, childless gay man named Xavier St. Denys. To escape from his past, Jack changes his name to Christopher "Kit" St. Denys. And with the advantages of wealth, changes his life's destiny.

WHILE ST. DENYS IS EVOLVING FROM pauper to prince, Nick Stuart is learning from his religious father how to be a country doctor; Nick never decided to become a doctor, like nearly everything else in his life, it was decided for him.

Still, Nick develops a passion for helping people and eventually decides to attend a university, over the objections of his father, to learn more.

Both men react differently to their homosexuality.

While Kit embraces it, chasing after every rough-looking man he can, Nick's strong religious views force him to run from that part of himself.

When the two lovers finally meet, it is after St. Denys has established himself as a star of the theater and Stuart has set up a clinic in a rough part of London to help those who likely can't pay him much.

For both men, this is about lust and love.

FROM THERE, MANY DETOURS IN THE story force the two men apart, including Nick moving to New York and marrying, trying to escape his love for Kit. Through all the drama, however, both men realize how much they need each other.

"The Phoenix" refers to a painting that St. Denys purchases and treasures, which signifies his rebirth, much like the fabled mythical creature.

Perhaps the book's greatest flaw is its one-dimensional characters. St. Denys' biological father, for example, is the pure embodiment of evil. He has no other shades.

All he lives for is booze, whoring around, and beating his wife and children. Many of the novel's other secondary characters are given similar treatment.

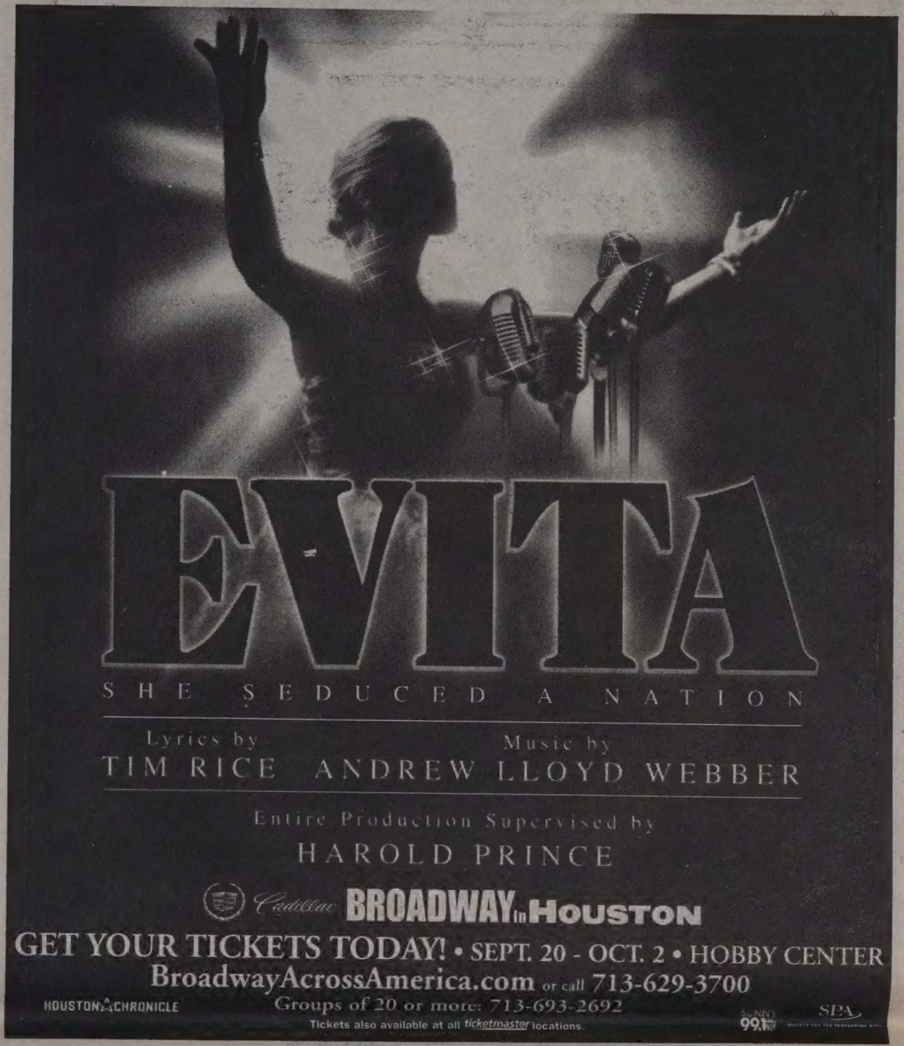
Another challenge is how Sims works in historical facts in the book that she obviously spent a great deal of time researching. Some of it seems like it's just thrown in for little reason other than to prove that this, indeed, is historical fiction. For example, at one point a couple of characters visit a new circus because they've heard so many wonderful things about Mr. Barnum and Mr. Bailey's show.

Nonetheless, Sims' research is also one of the book's strengths. She does a wonderful job recreating the New York theater scene at the turn of the century.

"The Phoenix" is an entertaining effort, and anyone interested in gay historical fiction, especially of the Victorian era, should enjoy it. There's action, drama, romance and a love between two souls that belong together.

MORE INFO

'The Phoenix'
By Ruth Sims
344 pages
$16.95
www.ruthsims.com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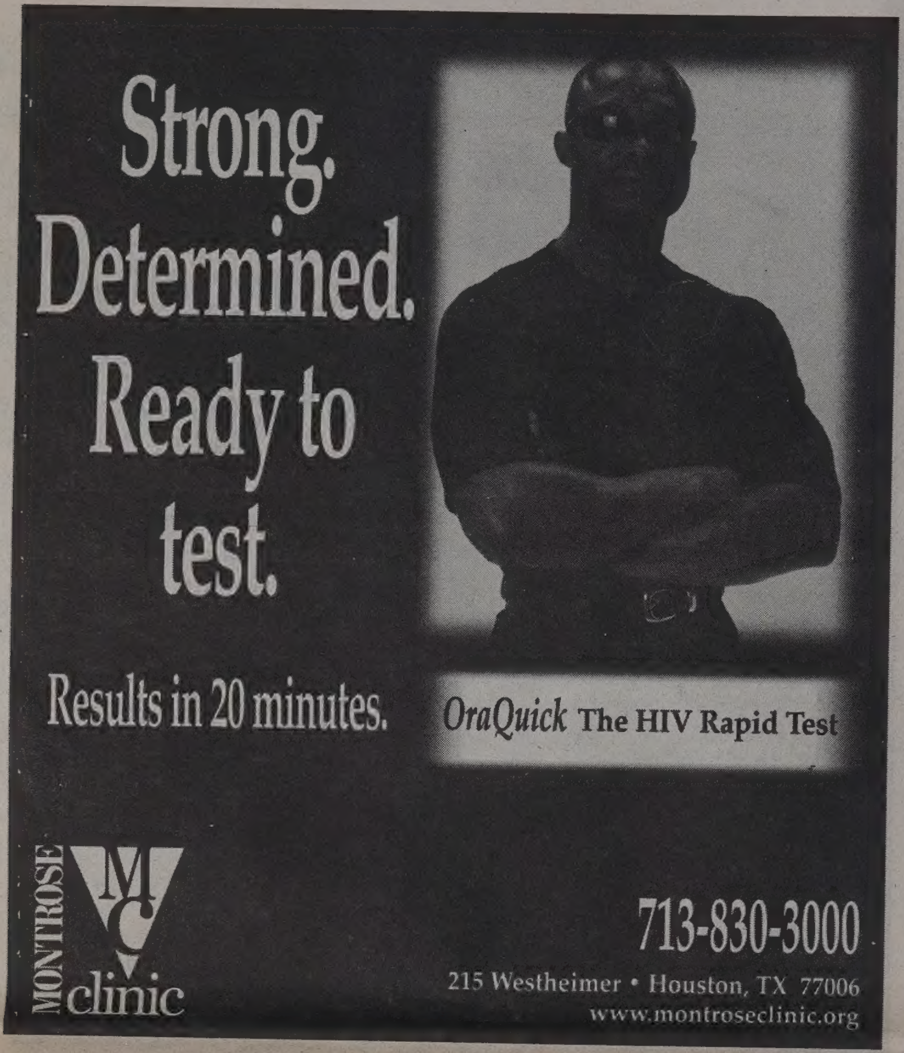
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music BUCK C. COOKE

On R&B singer Vivian Green's latest album, self-love carries the day. She wrote and co-produced most of the songs on 'Vivian,' about **failed romances**.

Easy being Green

WATCH OUT DEBORAH COX BECAUSE Vivian Green is back with her second album, "Vivian." A natural evolution for the R&B singer, the CD is packed with strong vocals, compelling lyrics, and clear emotion flows through the tracks from start to finish.

The album focuses on relationships, even those that don't work out. Songs run the relationship gamut from hopeful ("Wish We Could Go Back") and confused ("Perfect Decision", to confident ("All About Us"), aroused ("Sweet Thing"), nostalgic ("Sweet Memory [Beautifully Young]") and furious ("Mad").

Perhaps the best emotion the singer expresses is just plain fed up, from "Gotta Go Gotta Leave (Tired)," "Damn," "Selfish," to "Frustrated," "I Like It (But I Don't Need It)," and "Under My Skin."

Somebody-done-somebody-wrong songs are always a natural draw, especially for gay fans when the artist is a beautiful, gifted songstress. The boys do love their divas.

But Green, who is scheduled to perform in D.C. at Constitution Hall on Aug. 6, along with Teena Marie, is not just a pretty face. She wrote the lyrics and melodies for all 12 tracks on "Vivian" and co-produced nine of them.

In "Gotta Go Gotta Leave (Tired)," Green laments: "Now I take the blame for trying to stay and work it out/Should've left before it got complicated, should've left when there was still some happiness/I take the blame for having faith in a relationship I thought made me complete/But the truth is I'm complete without it … gotta let it go."

DUE IN LARGE PART TO GREEN'S LUSH vocals as well as the album's smooth production and crisp sound, "Vivian" manages to come off as romantic even though most of the songs are about relationships that already ran their course, often with disastrous results. This is definitely a CD to keep you warm on a rainy night, despite the nature of most of the subject matter.

Green does give in to an indulgence on "Outro (Family and Friends)." The track consists of messages from well-wishers on her second album and her new direction in life. It is endearing in parts, but the track quickly becomes grating as Green's sister gives her vapid encouragement for growing out her hair, her friend Christine insipidly over-uses the word "fabulous," and Kev, the token white man, makes it clear he is just a record company flack.

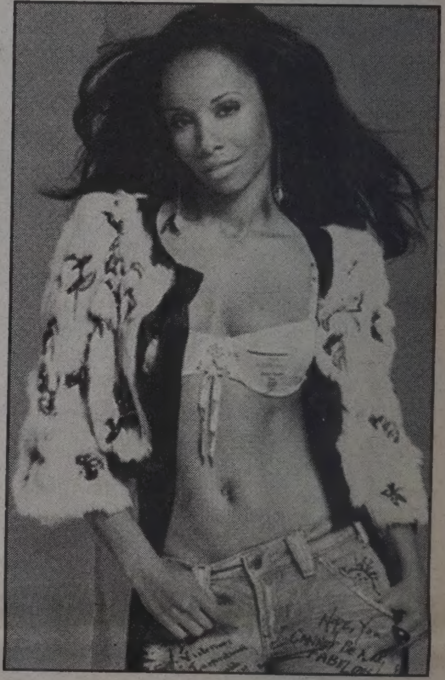
Green, who toured with Jill Scott as a backup singer, was featured in 2004's "De-Lovely" performing Billie Holiday's classic Cole Porter tune, "Love For Sale." But gay fans first noticed her when "Emotional Rollercoaster" received a dynamic remix by DJ Junior Vasquez.

The superstar remixer lends his wizardry again to "Gotta Go Gotta Leave (Tired)," which was released as a CD maxi-single with other remixes by Eddie Baez and Richard Morel. Those remixes for the lead single are already dance club staples, with lyrics of the summer anthem that must be sung at the top of your lungs with your hands in the air.

Green thanks Vasquez in the liner notes for "Vivian" and even performed with him at New York's Spirit just days before the album's recent release.

Ultimately, "Vivian" is a more mature and warm album than 2002's successful debut, "A Love Story," which went gold in 2003. The tracks sound less dated and should prove to have more staying power than the ones on the debut.

Green is growing into the promise she showed back then.

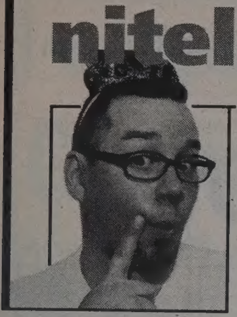


Vivian Green's sophomore album is filled with 'somebody-done-somebody-wrong' songs and proves she is much more than a pretty face.

MORE INFO

'Vivian'
Sony Urban Music/Columbia
July 2005
www.viviangreen.com

nitelife JOHNNY HOOKS



Time for the Uncommon Legacy Brunch, a party at Sippora Gallery, a new home for GLBT Night and a Vivian Green CD release party

Uncommon and artsy

AUGUST HAS ALWAYS BEEN HOTGG's cruelest month and this year is no exception. Lots of people out of town, who can blame them with this heat, right? Luckily we have found a few ideas to help raise your spirits and make you smile.

DJ CHRIS ALLEN DROPPED HOTGG A note to say there will be a release party for **Vivian Green's** smoking new album "Vivian" at **Guava Lamp** on **Friday, Aug. 5**. They'll be giving away copies of her album, samplers, posters, and post cards from 11 p.m. til 2 a.m. Guava is located at Waugh and D'amico near Allen Parkway. Read a review of her new CD on Page 16.

GET YOUR SOBE ON THIS WEEK! **Friday, Aug. 5, SOBE** presents the return of **DJ Michael Tank** from South Florida. On **Saturday, Aug. 6** you can enter to win a free trip to Miami's South Beach for four days and three nights for you and a friend. Finally at **Café Con Leche, Wednesday, Aug. 10** you can enter to win tickets to "Juntos en Conceirto" Alejandro Fernandez with Marc Anthony and Chayanne. www.southbeachthenightclub.com.

FEELING ARTSY? THEN CHECK OUT **Sippora Gallery** on **Saturday, Aug. 6** from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. when they present the artist reception for "**Body Language**." They'll give you a lesson on body language and maybe you'll get lucky! This show features **Maia**, **Simone Woodage**, **Regina Sherman**, **Kermit Eisenhut**, **Thomas GH Dorsch**, **Lacey Crawford**, **Wolfgang Pfirrmann**, **Van McFarland**, and **Timothy W. Vanya.** Sippora is located at 234 West Gray or call 713-520-1085 or log onto www.sippora.com.

SUNDAY PUT ON YOUR NICE LINEN suit and join **Uncommon Legacy Houston** for **The 2005 Extra Mile Awards Brunch**. This worthwhile event features a silent auction, brunch with bottomless Mimosas and live entertainment. Their special guest and Uncommon Woman Award Recipient is **Chrissy Gephardt** and the **Extra Mile Award Honorees** are **Janie Lopez** and **Shirley Knight**. Sunday, Aug. 7 at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2222 West Loop South from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. $70 per person and seating is limited. Reservations will be accepted on a first-come first-served basis.

Purchase your tickets online at www.uncommonlegacyhouston.org.

HoVo on the go-go

IN THE WAKE OF THE MONTROSE Diner closing (someone please rescue those poor leftover plants!) board members of the **GLBT Community Center** have decided to move the monthly **GLBT Night dinner**, to **Hollywood Vietnamese and Chinese** at 2409 Grant in the Hollywood Center. The next GLBT Night at Hollywood is **Tuesday**, **Aug. 9** at 6:30 p.m. The GLBT Community Center is located at 3400 Montrose Blvd., Suite 207. Call them at 713-524-3818 or log onto www.houstonglbtcommunitycenter.org.

HE'S BACK! **MR. MICHAEL DE Medici** has one faboo party planned for you and yours. **Thursday, Aug. 11** he and his de Medici and Castillo Worldwide PR have a "**Deuce Bigalow**" inspired event at the **Edwards Marq*E** theater complex on **I-10**. The pre-party begins at **Café Adobe** at 5:45 p.m. (remember kids, on I-10 at Silber, not Shepherd) featuring an open vodka bar and menu from **UV Vodka**! Then at 7:20 p.m., pop over en masse to see the film "Deuce Bigalow: European Gigolo." Afterwards the party continues at **Drink!** where there is a $10 cover charge, but drinks are a mere 75 cents! De Medici is co-hosting this progressive party with his (adorable!) partner **Martin Castillo** and **Lester H. Sorsby** from Houston Black Tie Dinner in honor of **Gary Teixeira** of the **Montrose Clinic**. Thanks to Marian Coleman of House of Coleman for all her help! See www.dmcworldwide.com for info on this and the other bundle of upcoming de Medici and Castillo events.

YOUR MONEY REALLY DOES GO TO good causes when it comes to **Rich's**.

So far this year Rich's Houston was able to contribute to **Pride Houston** a total of **$4419.00** as a result of the events held at the club. Can't wait for their "**CRUISE**," a tribute to Leather, Levis and Uniform on Saturday Aug. 13! Yes sir, I will be there!

@ If you have any club announcements or events, email them to **jhooks@houstonvoice.com** or call 713-529.-8490. See you on the Go-Go!

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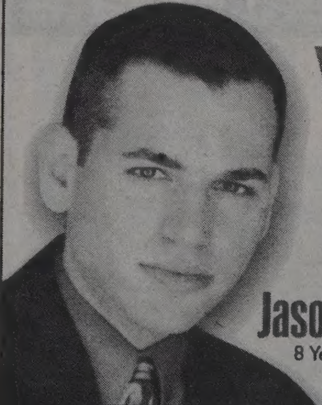

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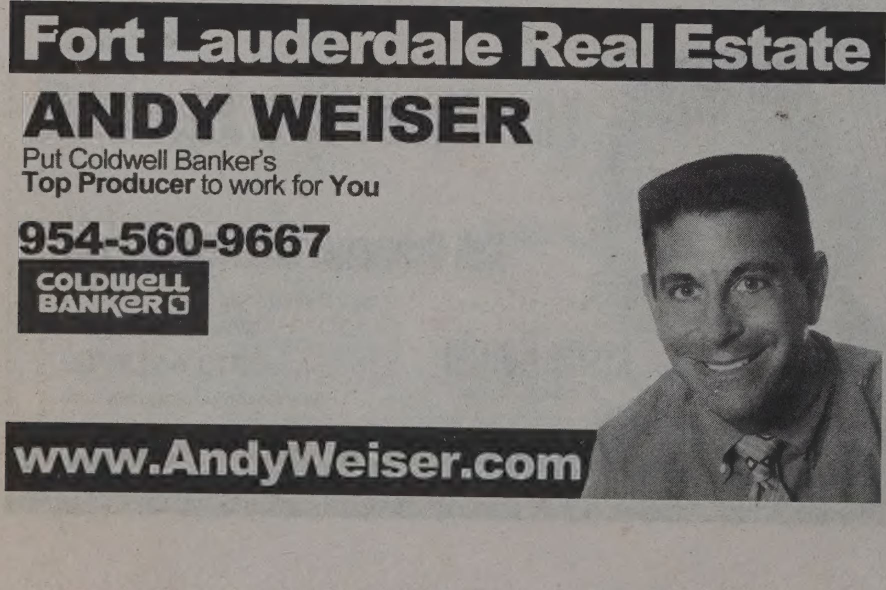
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Boys will be toys

The 'Dukes' were more than friends, Michael Lucas burned at Fire Island and Jimi Hendrix asked and told

There've been rumblings about an on-set romance between "The Dukes of Hazzard" costars **JOHNNY KNOXVILLE** and blonde beauty **JESSICA SIMPSON**, but it seems that the real action was man-on-man.

"Johnny Knoxville took advantage of me," dreamy **SEANN WILLIAM SCOTT**, who plays Bo to Knoxville's Luke Duke, told MTV News. "I'm trying to drive the car, trying to pull stunts, and he'd go, 'Hey, Seann, look over here,' And he pulls his balls out in front of me. Like, seriously. A lot. All the time. What are you supposed to do there?"

Well, Dish has some suggestions and she has been fantasizing about them.

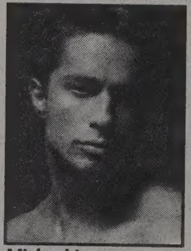
And it seems these two rowdy boys weren't the only source of same-sex tension on the set. **BURT REYNOLDS**, who plays bad guy Boss Hogg, had some kind words for costar **WILLIE NELSON**, who plays the boys' Uncle Jesse.

"When I worked with Willie Nelson, who is just about the nicest man I've ever worked with in my life," Reynolds said on NBC's "The Tonight Show" last Thursday, "I thought, 'If I'd have been gay it would have saved me millions.'"

Reynolds recounted the financial bath he took after his failed marriage to actress **LONI ANDERSON** and a lawsuit by ex-girlfriend Pamela Seals.

On fire

It looks like pouty porn impresario **MICHAEL LUCAS** may be spending as much time in a courtroom as he does in the bedroom.


Michael Lucas

The self-aggrandizing director/star writes on his blog, www.lucasblog.com, that while filming "Fire Island Cruising 7," the latest in the popular series, a member of the Fire Island Pines Property Owners' Association threatened to sue if any of the footage filmed in front of homes in the gay resort town made it into the video.

After the threat, Lucas said he is done filming there and this will be the last film in the series.

"My movies are the best promotion this tired-ass sandbox could ever hope for," Lucas, a Russian émigré and former lawyer, writes.

Johnny Knoxville (left) showed off more than his acting skills in his scenes with his 'Dukes of Hazzard' costar **Seann William Scott**. (Photo by Tammy Arroyo/AP)

A letter from a member of the Property Owners' Association that Lucas posted on his Web site offers a bitchy rebuttal.

"The Pines was popular and fabulous when you were still selling yourself on the streets of Moscow," it reads.

Me-ow!

Jimi's jam

Rock legend **JIMI HENDRIX** apparently was released from the Army because he convinced them he was gay, according to the Associated Press. Hendrix joined the armed forces to avoid going to jail after being caught in stolen cars several times in Seattle, his hometown.

Jimi Hendrix

In 1962, he was discharged for "homosexual tendencies." He used to tell people he was let go after an ankle injury sustained from a parachute jump. Not so, according to his medical records, which are published for the first time in Charles R. Cross' upcoming biography "Room Full of Mirrors."

The book says Hendrix made frequent visits to a psychiatrist at Fort Campbell, Ky., and told the doc there he was in love with one of his squad mates and couldn't stop masturbating.

There is no evidence that Hendrix, who had an insatiable appetite for women, ever had actual gay experiences.

The book comes out in September, to coincide with the anniversary of the musician's death in 1970 from a sleeping pill overdose.

Send comments, suggestions to Dish@houstonvoice.com eclipse cover story

Getting marriage

MARRIAGE, continued from **Page 13**

ized in the U.S., another $16.8 billion could be added annually to the industry.

"When we founded this company five years ago, our friends laughed. But all the controversy has increased awareness and couples are searching for resources," Sproul says. "And many ceremonies take place in cities where same-sex marriage is not legal. We enjoy going to cities where same-sex marriage is not legal, because the large turnout show [lawmakers] didn't stop anyone."

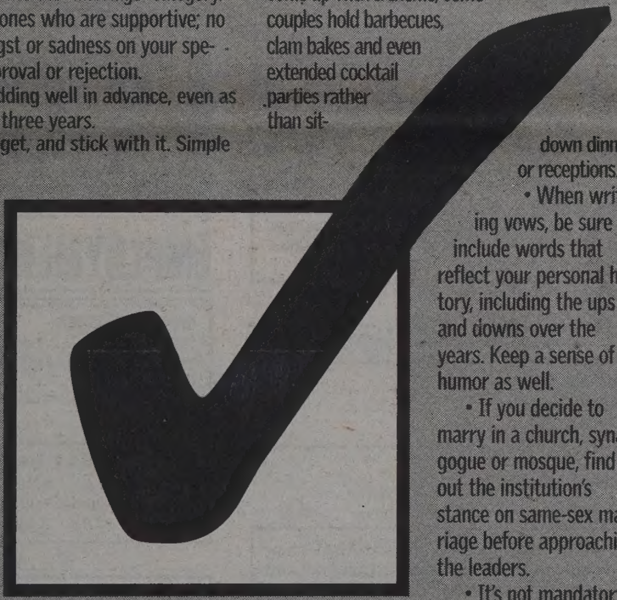
Bernadette Smith, a lesbian co-owner of It's About Time Weddings in Boston, said her company constantly gets inquiries from people across the country looking to get married in Massachusetts. Many clients who seek a public profession of their love with a wedding are also conscious of the political statement they make, she says.

"Our rights are limited, and at this point, it's still a civil rights issue," Smith says. "A gay wedding is not just about logistics — it's also about being an advocate."

MORE INFO

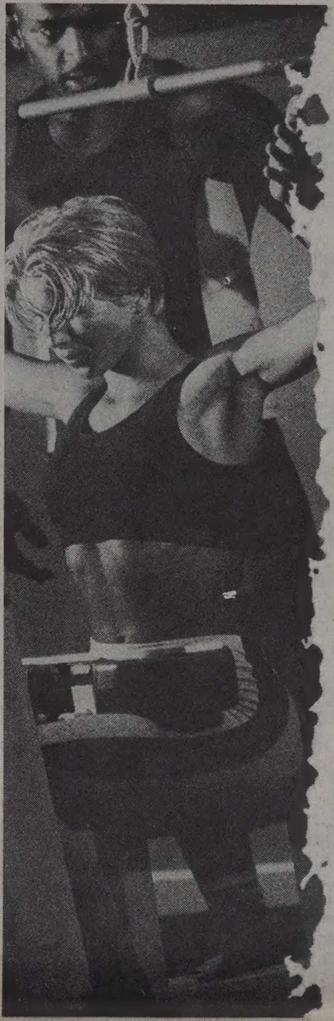
www.rainbowweddingnetwork.com
www.itsabouttimeweddings.com
www.gaywedding.com

Expert wedding tips



- Inform loved ones well in advance of the event. Same-sex marriage is still a new concept, so even if family and friends are accepting of your relationship, it may take time for people to adjust and place it into the "marriage" category.
- Invite loved ones who are supportive; no need to suffer angst or sadness on your special day by disapproval or rejection.
- Plan the wedding well in advance, even as far out as two or three years.
- Define a budget, and stick with it. Simple weddings can happen for as little as $500, or high-end affairs for $200,000 and up. An average gay wedding is about $15,000, according to the Rainbow Wedding Network. A good guideline: 50 percent for the reception; 10 percent for flowers; 10 percent for music; 10 percent for photography; 10 percent for clothing; 5 percent for invitations; and 5 percent for miscellaneous items.
- Buy a large briefcase for everything relating to the wedding, and make sure that it has your address and phone on it.
- Keep notebooks for your attendants with lists of tasks, dates for fittings, rehearsal times and other specifics.
- Have a date book in which both of you can list important details. Include steps to take and dates to view venues, sit for fittings or meet with caterers.
- Use vendors you know are gay-friendly. Wedding planners for gay unions usually offer screened vendors and know which photographers, caterers, florists and venues have gay-friendly policies.
- There are no traditions set for same-sex marriages, so make up your own. Create a ceremony that reflects your relationship, your culture and your history together. If appropriate, come up with a theme; some couples hold barbecues, clam bakes and even extended cocktail parties rather than sit-down dinners or receptions.
- When writing vows, be sure to include words that reflect your personal history, including the ups and downs over the years. Keep a sense of humor as well.
- If you decide to marry in a church, synagogue or mosque, find out the institution's stance on same-sex marriage before approaching the leaders.
- It's not mandatory to have a wedding cake. Cupcakes, dessert bars or other snacks are all fair game.
- When registering for gifts, consider asking guests to make donations to such organizations as Freedom to Marry that continue the fight for marriage equality.
- When traveling to Massachusetts, Canada, Belgium, the Netherlands or Spain where same-sex marriage is legal, be sure to understand the laws there. Some town clerks in Massachusetts enforce a 1913 law that prevents out-of-state residents from marrying, but others do not. Understand that benefits of marriage in other places do not necessarily transfer back to your home.

Sources: Rainbow Wedding Network, It's About Time Weddings, 'The Complete Guide to Gay and Lesbian Weddings' by K.C. David and www.gayweddings.com.



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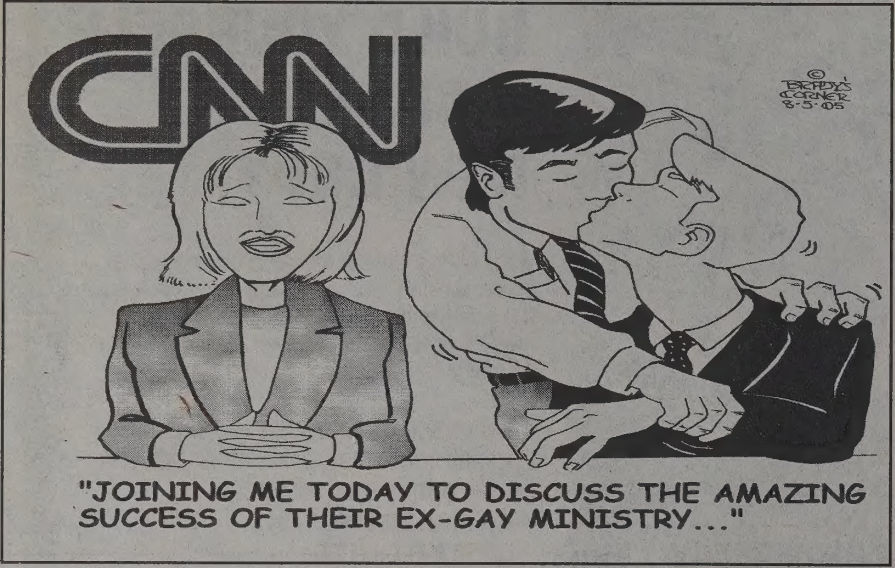
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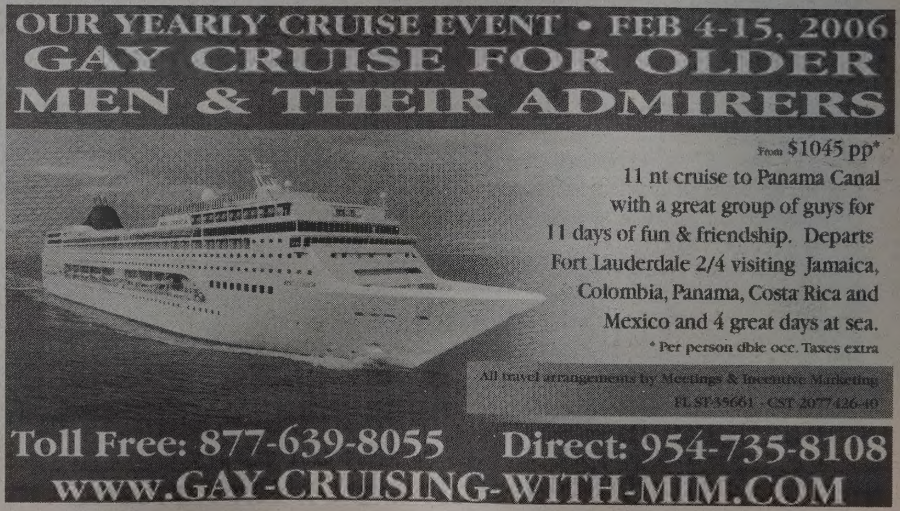
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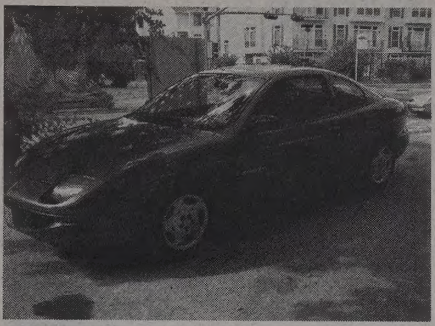

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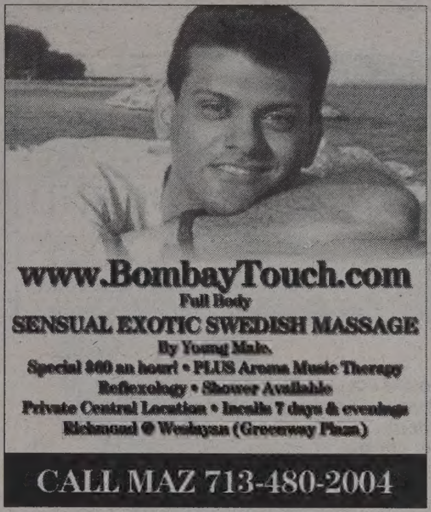
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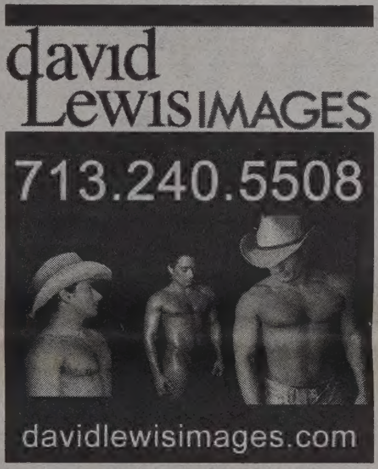
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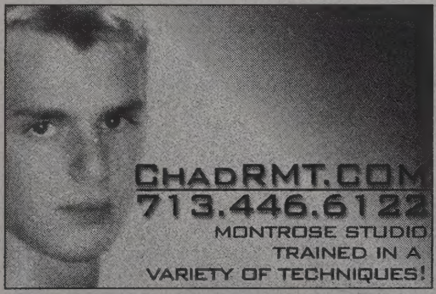
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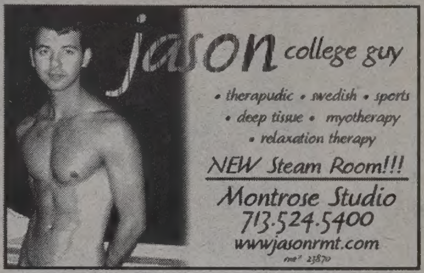
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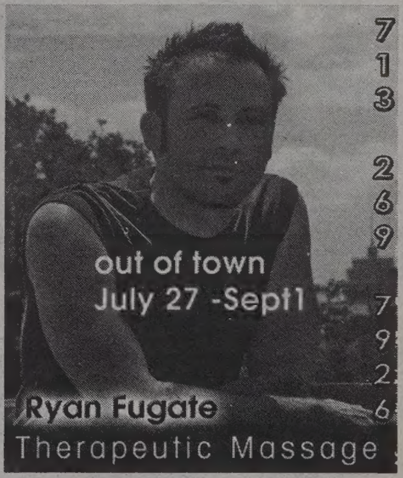
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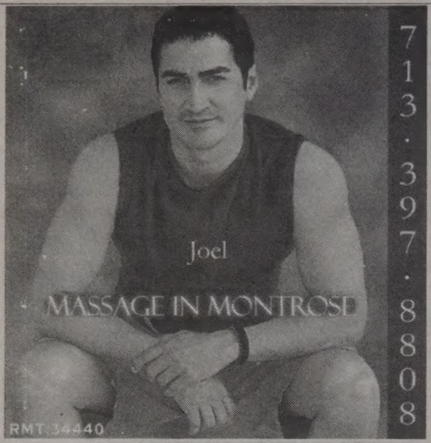
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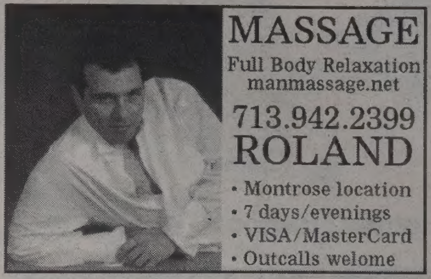
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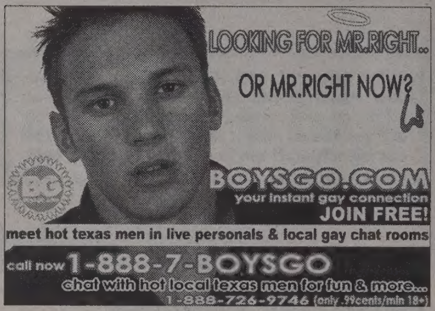
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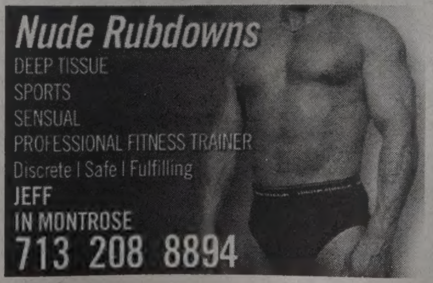
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bitch session

Love the Christian, hate the closed-mindedness.

WOULD YOU HAVE LISTENED IF WE had told you he was psychotic and dangerous?

THE MORE I READ BITCHES FROM lesbians, the more I realize they play the same head games with each other that gay men do.

TO THE GUY BITCHING ABOUT MEN wearing flip-flops: Have you never been to the beach? Tons of straight boys who are hot as hell are wearing them, and just as many hot gay guys wear them. It's a very hot look on a hot guy!
BITCH BOY RESPONDS: Reached for comment, Paris Hilton agrees, "They're hot!"

SHOULD I WEAR A KILT OR A SKIRT? I have been seen in my red plaid kilt in Stuttgart, my green plaid kilt in Barcelona, and in my Jean Paul Gauthier skirt in St. Tropez. Let's not skirt the issue. Your bitterness gets you nowhere.

ARE YOU SEXUALLY ATTRACTED TO everyone? No? Then why is it such a moral outrage that not everyone else is sexually attracted to you?

I HAVE TROUBLE SLEEPING AT NIGHT when I realized the men I've slept with have slept with all the other men I've slept with.

WE OUT OF SHAPE GEEZERS GET A lot more action in the gym steam room than you stuck up little twinks.

HOLLA BACK TO THE BITCH WHO HAD to deal with that tore up size queen. That's right! We don't want to be with your kind if it means tying on a 2x4 so we don't fall into that canyon of yours!

OK SO I'M FAT. NOW I HEAR THAT someone is interested in me but wants me to lose weight first. I like him, too, but if I'm not good enough for him the way I am, then he isn't good enough for me.

WHY DO GAY BARS KEEP HOSTING boxer shorts nights instead of briefs or bikini nights? Nobody but nerds, losers or fatties wears baggy boxers.

PLEASE STOP ASKING ME WHY I'M single. Most guys want the bad guy that they know is not even a fixer upper, and since I pride myself on not having that M.O., I'm single.

OH HOW I WISH I COULD MEET A MAN that would appreciate me for my heart and not just my penis size.

TO THE BITCH WITH AN AXE TO grind about body spray: Maybe you need a good scrub down before you see the pro's of this product. It works for me.

TO THE LESBIAN COMPLAINING about butch dykes: I don't like men, I like butches; there's an important difference, and it's called a vagina! Who are queers to tell each other who to love or how to express gender? Viva la butches!

WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH PIERCINGS? I don't care if they look cool. They are so unsanitary. What's wrong with just getting a tattoo?

I FINALLY HOST A HOUSEWARMING party and invite all my friends. How come only straight people show up? I sacrificed a lot coming out. My gay friends should be more supportive of each other.

I HATE IT WHEN PEOPLE SAY SIZE matters. I often find that's not the case. What really matters is your ability to please me instead of yourself.

IS THE PHRASE "BLH" ("BAD Lesbian Hair") acceptable in the gay community? My straight co-worker used that to describe how she clocked a lesbian at work.

WHEN OH WHEN WILL THERE BE A decent place for nice, attractive gay guys in their 30s and 40s to meet nice younger men without competing with old trolls?

SO NOW YOU CAN BECOME AN "ex-gay"? Not likely. Of course, I could call Michael Jackson to see how to become an "ex-black."

WHY AM I A MAGNET FOR GIRLS with issues? Yeah, I'm a butch. So? I am the most caring person you could meet. I may act blue-collar, but this is the same person who wrote a piece for full symphony for my ex after she dropped me.

I HAVE A CHRONIC DISEASE AND MY insurance company won't pay for a medication that will improve my standard of living. They say it's too expensive. So I told them they could save money by monitoring barebacking Web sites and denying payment to the irresponsible jerks trading HIV the same way kids trade baseball cards.

WHY DO STRAIGHT TROLLS ALWAYS think gay men are hitting on them? Please guys, don't flatter yourselves.

Editors' note: These are real bitches, sent in by real readers, about gay life's little annoyances, and the big ones, too.
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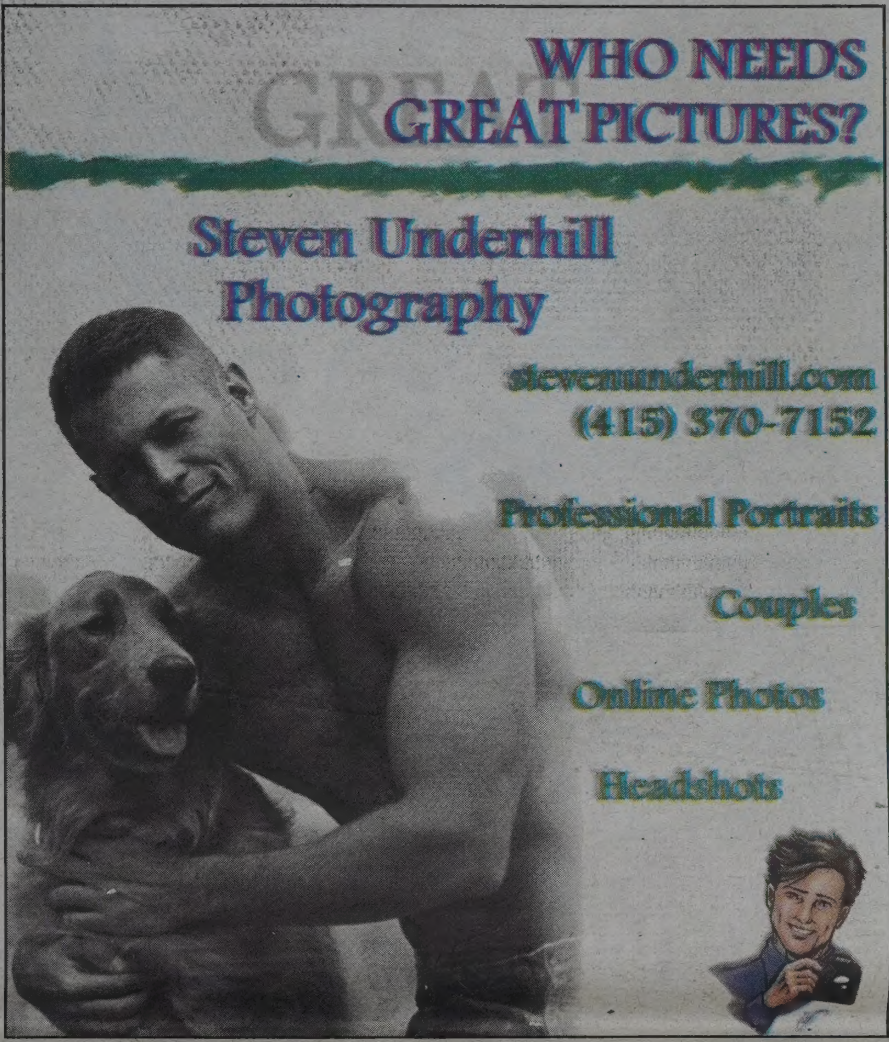
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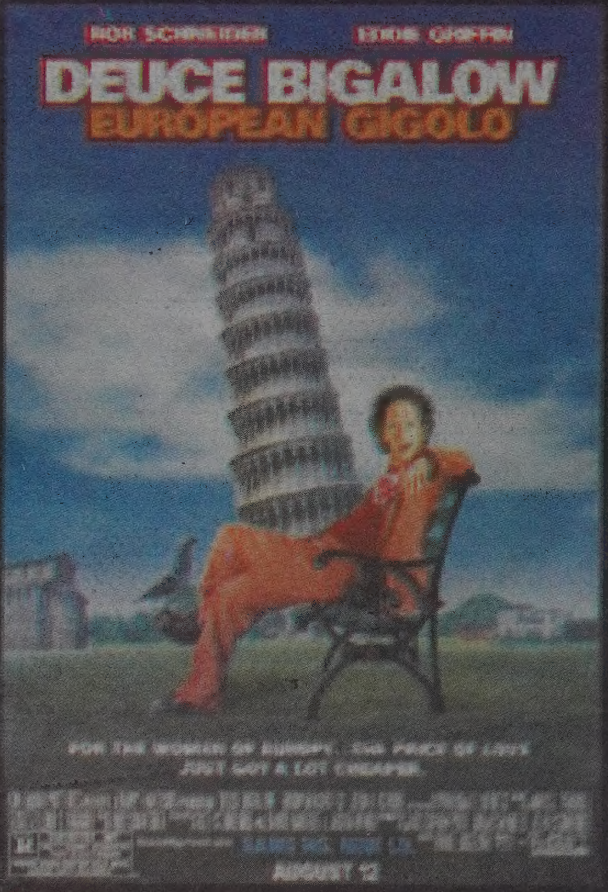
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